The BASU© SOURCE

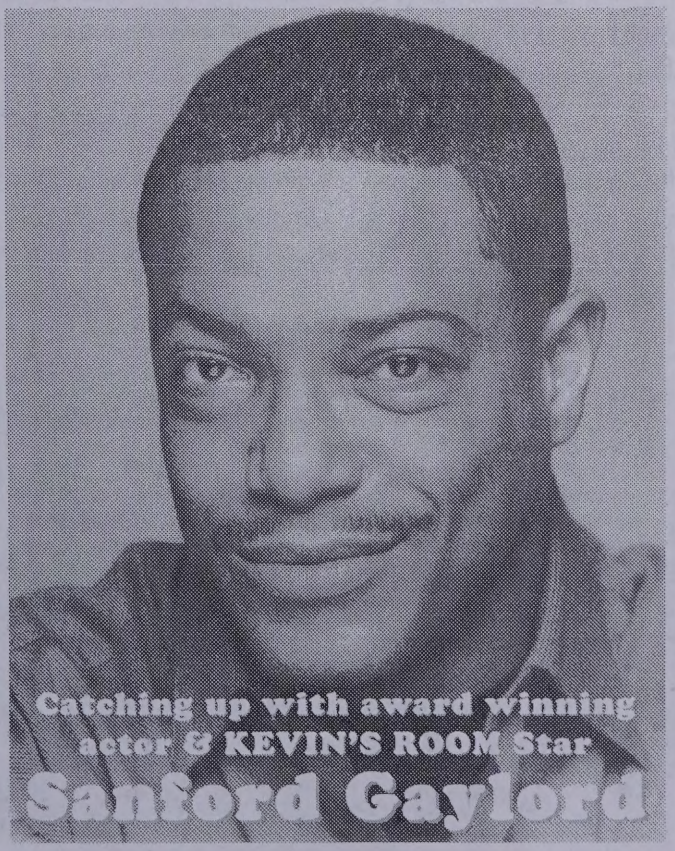
The Official Newsletter of Brothers & Sisters United© Nashville & the BU Network Chapters
WARNING: Contains adult themes, LGBT topics, language & images [Volume 11, Issue 61]
APRIL / MAY / JUNE 2008 ISSUE

Patti LaBelle enters the DL Zone in new movie role

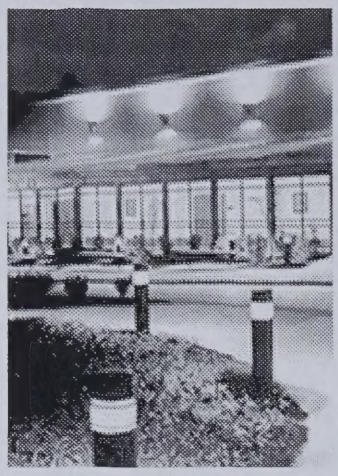
got pride?
Official 2008 IFBP Listing

WANTED

Male, Female & Tranz
VOLUNTEER MODELS



Catching up with award winning actor & KEVIN'S ROOM Star
Sanford Gaylord



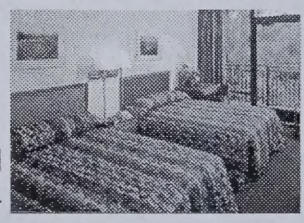
Brothers & Sisters United© Winter Retreat # 11

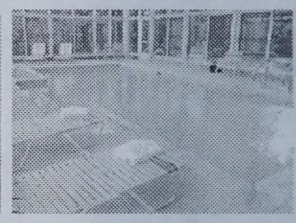
Thursday December 4th - Sunday December 7th, 2008

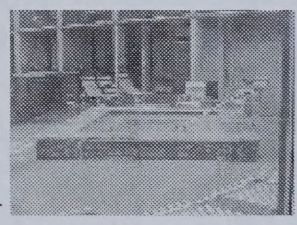
Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center, Burns TN

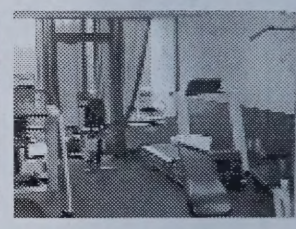
To get an official brochure contact Brothers United Network, Inc., PO Box # 68335, Nashville, TN 37206.
Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Office: 800 845-4266 x 269 / Cell: 615 974-2832
E-mail: brosunited@aol.com / www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

The atmosphere is very relaxed and gives participants a chance to explore issues of identity, spirituality, and sexuality. It is facilitated in non-threatening and culturally sensitive forums. At times it can be entertaining, provocative and emotional. Although the majority of participants live in the State of Tennessee, others have traveled from Chicago, Texas, Virginia, Michigan, Washington D.C., Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Mississippi to join us. Since the developement of our Lesbian group, Sisters United, our retreat is now open to the entire LGBT community. Montgomery Bell is about 50 miles from Nashville, 161 miles from Chattanooga, 186 miles from the Memphis & West TN areas, and 218 miles from Knoxville.









Frequently Asked Questions:

What is provided? Lodging, six (6) buffet style meals, commemorative item, all work & playshops, activities, entertainment, in-door pool out-door hot tub & exercise facility. Single night rates available. Montgomery Bell is also pet friendly!
How much does it cost? $179 for returning guests, and $199 for newcomers, before September 30th. $225 for all after October 1st.
What are the accommodations? 3 night / 4 day hotel style double beds, TV, window and standard bathroom with tub and shower.
How do you pay? Cash (on-site/in person), credit card, money orders, or PAYPAL Internet payments. (Please contact Dwayne first before e-mailing payments to: bronetwktn@aol.com)
What is your refund policy? To receive a full refund you must request it in writing before September 23rd. After that, your registration will be carried forward one year with no penalty. If you are unable to attend again, your fee will not be returned. Registration fees are transferable for the first year.
How do you get to the site? Participants that drive will be given directions. Participants that fly will be offered free roundtrip airport shuttle service, but must arrive on Thursday and depart on Sunday after 1 PM. The park is located 5(miles from Nashville, 161 from Chattanooga, 186 from the Memphis & West TN area, and 218 from Knoxville.
How many are you expecting? 50+ men & women ages 18-80.

Things to bring: A calm, friendly & peaceful spirit! Extra spendin(money to support our showcase artists or authors that will be sellin(their merchandise. Swimming trunks & workout clothes, ear plugs i you are a light sleeper, any special dietary needs or medications, hik ing/walking gear if you are into the outdoors, board games for thos(late night evening hours of play, and a camera or video recorder fo photos & special moments.

Things to leave at home: All family, work or baby-daddy/momm related drama, illegal drugs or paraphernalia, and any intended plan on turning the weekend into your personal sex fest. We're not sayin(folks can't, or don't hook up, we're just asking that it isn't the main rea son that anyone may want to attend. :-)

Brothers United Network, Inc is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization that has provided education, affirmation & pride to Tennessee's Black LGBT Community since 1996

The BASU© SOURCE

This newsletter is published to keep the African American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered community in Nashville connected to the greater Black LGBT world. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by Brothers United, Young Brothers United, Sisters United, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride, or Nashville CARES. Names & photos of persons appearing in any of THE BASU SOURCE issues are no indication of sexual orientation or health status.

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Out of town dial the HEARTLine: 800-845-4266 ext. # 269
E-mail: BrosUnited@aol.com
BU web-site: www.brothersunited.com
Agency web-site: www.nashvillecares.org

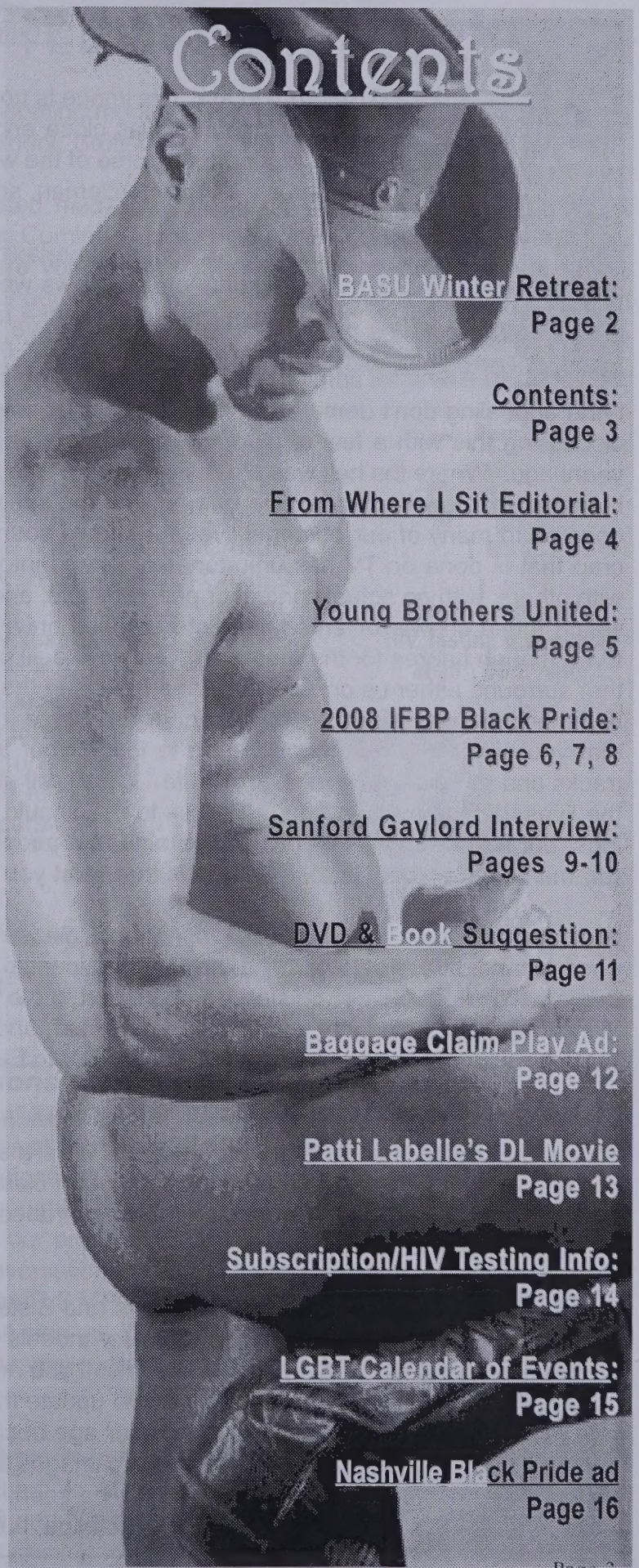
The Subscription rate for Nashville/MiddleTN area is free. All others make $10 check/money order out to: "Nashville CARES-BU" and send to the above address. Don't like paper? Subscribe to our monthly eSOURCE e-mails and stay connected thru the internet via e-mail blasts for free!

All correspondences are strickly personal & confidential. Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status, or "out" with their sexuality to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc. Celebrating 12 Years of providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation.

The BU Network name along with "BASU", "Nashville Black Pride" (and abbreviated versions such as "Black Pride") are registered, trademarked and exclusively owned by the organization. Any unauthorized use of our names may prompt legal action.

The BU Network is autonomous from, yet complementary to, the Nashville CARES BU/YBU programs in that all of the events & activities provide in-depth, longer term life skills required for success outside of, but essential to, HIV prevention, outreach and education. Mr. Jenkins is the primary contact for all projects.



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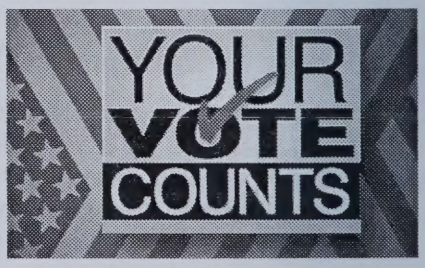
From Where I Stand by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor

Before you ask, this image is not me! I just came across the photo and thought that the likeness was close enough to warrant its inclusion. There are many times during the course of the week that I do have the urge to fling my hair just as fiercely as this gentleman, so don't go hating on our real booty length locs!

A few months ago, while relaxing in front of the television, I suddenly noticed that a majority of the shows were either reality or competition based. At first I thought that the writer's strike may have caused the influx, but many of these shows have been around for more than 2-3 years and or seasons. Okay, I admit that I have seen, and do currently watch a few of them, but the one's that I find appealing don't demoralize, demonize, or fall into the trash TV category. After sitting back and discussing this with a few of my friends, I realized that reality shows had actually taken over many years ago. Where the hell was I? The reason I wanted to share this topic with our readers is because I wanted to know if anyone else has noticed the similarities between what we see on TV with what goes on in many of our personal lives. I know I sound like someone's grand daddy, but a lot of the crap that is done on TV has unfortunately leaked into real life. Folks are walking around competing with others, with no actual contest or prize at stake, and it's getting ugly. Yeah, some will say that they watch these shows for entertainment purposes only, and they and can watch whatever they want. Even though I agree for the most part, I would like all of us to carefully compare the issues and drama that surround either us or our family and friends to the crap that we may be addicted to on television. If you notice that your life's circumstances are worse than any of your favorite reality shows, I suggest that you either hire a camera person to follow your trifling ass around, or immediately stop in your tracks and reconsider changing your life. We all will struggle from time to time, but honestly; some of the lives that we are allowing ourselves to live should be subject to get canceled-not because of ratings, but for our own sanity. Keep in mind that people may tune in daily to observe your dramodey (drama/comedy) that you call life, but is that what you really want?



As the democratic nominee race continues, please remember that once a candidate is selected and the true presidential election contest begins; we all MUST be registered to take part in the November vote. We've registered plenty of you over the past year, and will continue to have the applications available until 30 days prior to Election Day, 11/4.

As some of you may know, Nashville CARES now offers the OraQuick HIV oral swab test. This test allows us to give results in just 20 minutes. The test is 99% accurate and doesn't use needles or blood. Many have made appointments between classes, and even on their lunch break. It's quick, easy and in most cases, takes less time than it does to actually have sex, including even the most advanced methods of masturbation.

This year, Brothers and Sisters United, along with Nashville Black Pride are looking for volunteer models for our upcoming health education & community themed materials. If you are first timer, or have previously taken/submitted photos and want to update them, please contact me. We are not looking for one type, shape, or age because our community is very diverse. If you are sick of the same old images that don't look like you or your friends, this is your chance to step up, be seen, and represent you clique! Okay, I went back a decade or so for that line, but you know what I mean.

YOUNG GIFTED & BLACK by DaShawn Usher

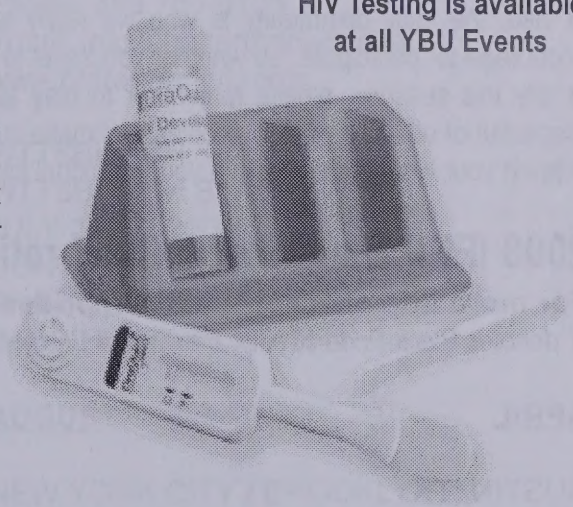
As we approach the upcoming months, I will take this time to plug some of the upcoming events with Young Brothers United (YBU).

YBU is seeking dedicated members to volunteer their time to help with this year's upcoming events. Coming to any YBU function is considered community service because you are volunteering your time. It is a great opportunity to come together with other guys in our community in a non-club atmoshpere. I will be working on different events for the rest of the year, and hope that you can join us during one or more of the YBU events on the following dates:

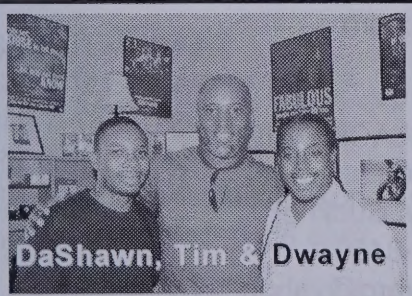
Saturday, April 5:	Movie Night	6 pm - 8 pm at CARES
Saturday, April 19:	Discussions	5 pm - 7 pm at CARES
Saturday, May 3:	Movie Night	6 pm - 8 pm at CARES
Saturday, May 17:	Discussions	5 pm - 7 pm at CARES
Saturday, May 31:	Movie Night	6 pm - 8 pm at CARES
Saturday, June 28:	Movie Night	6 pm - 8 pm at CARES

We have also switched to the oral rapid HIV test called OraQuick. So instead of waiting the usual 3 to 4 days to get your test result, you will know your status in about 20 minutes. Testing is available Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All other times are by appointment only. If you have any suggestions or comments feel free to contact me at 615-259-4866 x221, dusher@nashvillecares.org, or at www.myspace/ybucares.

Free & confidential HIV Testing is available at all YBU Events



99% Accurate
No Blood, No Needles
Results in just 20 minutes!



DaShawn, Tim & Dwayne

"Conversations: A Talk with My Brother" will begin this quarter. Originally started in California by Tim Daniels with Standing-N-Truth, this social gathering will take place in someone's home. Now that Tim has relocated to Nashville and works with Dwayne and I at CARES, we thought it would be great to developed a similar project that combines our programs. Unlike previous BU & YBU discussion sessions "Conversations" will be a more intimate social gathering, which is why an R.S.V.P will be needed. Food and refreshments will be served, and the location will be given upon sign up. You can contact Dwayne for more additional information at 259-4866 x269 or djenkins@nashvillecares.org. The schedule for "Conversations" is as follows:

Friday, April 25:	6:30 pm - 8 pm location TBA
Friday, May 23:	6:30 pm - 8 pm location TBA
Friday, June 27:	6:30 pm - 8 pm (National HIV Testing Day) location TBA

The International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP) is a coalition of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Same Gender Loving (LGBT/SGL) Prides and community-based organizations. The IFBP develops sponsorship strategies, provides technical assistance, mentoring, and a strong support system for one another. The organization acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit status in November, 2004.

Each city puts a lot of time, money, sweat and tears into their weekend. Even though all prides love out of towners to visit, the local community is who we really want to encourage to participate. So whether you travel to another city this season, please remember to play safe, be respectful of others, enjoy yourselves and make sure you support your local pride efforts in your individual cities!

2008 IFBP Black Pride Celebrations

For more info checkout: www.ifbprides.org

*(*denotes Black Pride cities that are not IFBP members)*

APRIL

AUSTIN, TX
AUSTIN RELAY 4 LIFE PRIDE CELEBRATION
APRIL 4-6, 2008
CONTACT: Rodgerick Bradley / 512 929-0322
Email: austinrelaypride@gmail.com
www.austinrelaypride.com

PHILADELPHIA, PA
PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE
APRIL 24-27, 2008
CONTACT: Chris Alston
1201 Chestnut Street, 15th Fl
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: 215 873-3273
Email: phillyblackpride@gmail.com
www.phillyblackpride.org

MAY

WASHINGTON, DC
WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 21-26, 2008
CONTACT: Ray Daniels
Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc.
P.O. Box 77071
Washington, DC 20013-3071
Phone: 202 737-5767
Email: contactus@dcblackpride.org
www.dcblackpride.org

JUNE

NEWARK, NJ *
NEWARK-ESSEX PRIDE
JUNE 9-15, 2008
CONTACT: June Dowell-Burton
Phone: 973 941-2104
Email: newarkessexpride@gmail.com or
june1225@aol.com / www.newarkessexpride.org

BOSTON, MA
BLACK GAY PRIDE NEW ENGLAND
JUNE 13-15, 2008
CONTACT: TBA

PORTLAND, OR
PORTLAND BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 12-15, 2008
CONTACT: Alisa Simmons
Phone: 503 417-7991
Email: alsia@brotobropdx.org
www.brotobropdx.org

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 12-15, 2008
CONTACT: Terryl Buckner
Phone: 901 522-8459
Email: hardawayarg@yahoo.com
or terrylbuck61@aol.com
www.memphisblackpride.com

JUNE continued

COLUMBIA, SC
SOUTH CAROLINA BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 25-29, 2008
CONTACT: Todd Shaw /
Jermaine Lee [National Organizer]
Phone: 803-799-9190
Email: info@southcarolinablackpride.com
www.southcarolinablackpride.com

JULY

LOS ANGELES, CA
AT THE BEACH (ATB)
JULY 3 -6, 2008
Phone: 323 293-4282
Email: atbla@aol.com
www.atbla.com

CHICAGO, IL
CHICAGO WINDY CITY BLACK LGBT-SGL PRIDE
JULY 2-7, 2008
CONTACT: Charles E. Nelson II
Phone: 773 268-5678
Email: cnelson@windycitychicagoblackpride.org
www.windycitychicagoblackpride.org

CHARLOTTE, NC
CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE
JULY 17-20, 2008
CONTACT: Lynkoya Handy
Email: cncbgp@yahoo.com
www.charlotteblackgaypride.org

SEATTLE, WA
SEATTLE BLACK PRIDE
JULY 18-20, 2008
Phone: 206 324-1520
Email: info@seattleblackpride.com
www.seattleblackpride.com

TAMPA, FL
CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE
JULY 23-27, 2008
CONTACT: Ricc Rollins
Phone: 813 391-6776
Email: riccrollins@aol.com
www.floridablacpride.com

LITTLE ROCK, AR
LITTLE ROCK BLACK PRIDE *
JULY 18-20, 2008
CONTACT: Torrie
Phone: 501 398-0307
Email: srogers@littlerockblackpride.com

LONDON, ENGLAND UK
OUTBURST UK BLACK PRIDE FESTIVAL
July 19, 2008
CONTACT: Andrew Prince
Phone: 0208-678-6689
Email: info@outburstuk.org

DETROIT, MI
DETROIT'S HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 21-29, 2008
CONTACT: Hank Millbourne
P.O. Box 3025
Detroit, MI 48231
Phone: 888 755-9165
Email: info@hotterthanjuly.com
www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH, PA
PITTSBURGH BLACK PRIDE
JULY 24-27, 2008
CONTACT: Deryck Tines
Phone: 412 261-1692
Email: pghblackpride@hotmail.com

AUGUST

NEW YORK CITY / BROOKLYN, NY
PRIDE IN THE CITY
AUGUST 2-10, 2008
CONTACT: Kevin Williams - POCC
Phone: 718 230-0770 Ext 238
www.prideinthecity.com

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
TORONTO BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 7-10, 2008
CONTACT: Michelle Mapp
Phone: 905 726-1615
Email: info@torontoblackpride.com
www.torontoblackpride.com

AUGUST continued

JACKSONVILLE, FL
JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 7-10, 2008
CONTACT: Christopher Foreman/Jonathan Martin
Jacksonville Florida Black Pride, Inc.
P.O. Box 18841
Jacksonville, FL 32229
Phone: 904 858-3757
Email: jaxbp@aol.com
www.jaxxblackpride.com

INDIANAPOLIS, IN
INDIANA BLACK GAY PRIDE
AUGUST 8 -10, 2008
CONTACT:Tiffany Dow/Stephion Gromes
Phone: 317 413-8728 / 317 529-4485
Email: indianablackgaypride@yahoo.com
www.indianablackpride.com

ST. LOUIS, MO
ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 15-17, 2008
CONTACT: Erise Williams, Jr. President
ST. LOUIS BLACK GAY
& LESBIAN PRIDE COMMITTEE, INC.
P.O. Box 4854
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
Phone: 314 531-2284
Email: ewilliams@stlouisblackpride.org
www.stlouisblackpride.org

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA, GA
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 1, 2008
CONTACT: Anare V. Holmes
In The Life Atlanta
346 Auburn Avenue, NE Suite 126
ATLANTA, GA 30312
Phone: 404 872-6410
Email: iaholmes@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com

OCTOBER

DALLAS, TX
DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE
OCTOBER 2-5, 2008
CONTACT: Roy Murray
Phone: 214 498-5815
Email: dallasblack2k@yahoo.com
www.dallassouthernpride.com

BALTIMORE, MD
BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE
OCTOBER 10-13, 2008
CONTACT: Carlton Smith
Baltimore Black Gay Pride, Inc.
PO Box 23744
Baltimore, MD 21203
Phone: 410 609-6302
Email: info@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org

JACKSON, MS
JACKSON BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 16-19, 2008
CONTACT: Dr. Mark A. Colomb
Jackson Black Pride
P.O. Box 4682
Jackson, MS 39296-4682
Phone: 601 957-3625
Email: mcolomb@mbk-inc.org
www.jacksonblackpride.org

NASHVILLE, TN
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 24-26, 2008
CONTACT: Dwayne Jenkins
Phone: 615 974-2832 / 800 845-4266 EXT 269
Email: nashblackpride@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm or
www.myspace.com/nashvilleblackpride

NOVEMBER

SHREVEPORT, LA *
SHREVEPORT BLACK PRIDE
NOVEMBER 2 -5, 2008
CONTACT: Keith Boyd
Phone: 817 401-7678
Email: events@7connection.com
www.shreveportpride.com

Catching up with Actor & Activist Sanford Gaylord

by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor

Why were you originally interested in the *KEVIN'S ROOM* Project? *I was interested because it was something that I had never seen before and I knew that it would be history making. Before I auditioned for the role, I had only been in one other film flashback sequence in, Living with Pride Ruth Ellis @ 100, a film by Yvonne Welbon. As an openly Gay man of African descent that was and still is an actor, I had to part of it in some way.*

Were you surprised by the success of the first episode and how it was received by the community? *I knew that we were creating a little bit of history. The film Punks came out around the same time but Kevin's Room aired on what was then UPN, here in Chicago. I was blown away, and still am happy to hear what an affect all three films have had on the communities across the U.S. and abroad. I think it was well received by many communities. If anything, it got people to talking which is what the films were meant to do in the fist place. The Chicago Department of Public Health produces the series. Lora Branch is the executive producer. To this day, we're humbled by folks that have taken the time to send an email or write. Some have expressed how they used the film to come out to their families. To have been part of a project that shows that we, SGL, Gay people of African descent are human…to not have the extreme stereotypes shown. I'm proud.*

As an award winning actor, how important do you think it is to be out with your sexuality? *Good question! You know, everyone has to have their own comfort level with the decisions that they make. I guess I have always been out. People have asked me is my name a stage name but it ain't. Gaylord is my last name. I've been out for a while. If you are not true to yourself, you are living a lie, I think. Even though we are in the 21st Century, there is still homophobia and bashing. One needs to be comfortable with themselves and understand that you may always need to fight for the right to be…but we're all worth fighting for aren't we?*

For me, it was always important to be out and be proud of who I am. I am and we are much more than a sexual act or behavior. Before Kevin's Room I was working with A Real Read, it was an African American LGBT Performance Ensemble. The first of it's kind and I am proud to say that the ensemble was recently inducted into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. We performed our own original works as well as other playwrights that were African American and LGBT from 1996 - 2002. Many of the cast members of A Real Read are in the Kevin's Room series. Byron Stewart who's character is Paris in the series was one of the co-founding members of A Real Read.

As a person who has been involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy, prevention & care for over 10 years, do you think that films such as *KEVIN'S ROOM* help to educate our community about the importance of their sexual health? *Yes I do. We are 26 years into a pandemic. You have to have multiple ways of reaching people. The door that leads into a support group can intimidate many folks. Others may not be comfortable with coming to an LGBT film festival to see a film like Kevin's Room or Dirty Laundry but if they get a DVD and play it in their own homes, it could get them to thinking differently about their health as well as the way they view themselves as human being, I think. As many ways as it takes to save the generations that follow us all.*

Now that the *KEVIN'S ROOM* Trilogy is complete, do you have plans to continue your craft within the LGBT market? *I would love to do so depending on the timing and the script. One of the things I have learned as a "seasoned man" is that it's about the quality, not the quantity of your work.*

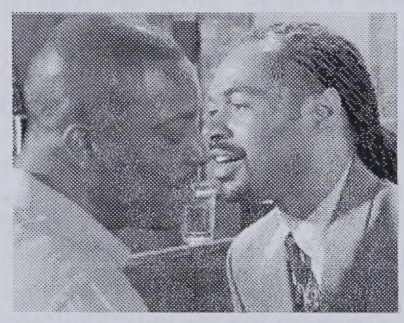
Continued next page

When you first signed on for the original *KEVIN'S ROOM* film back in 2001, did you think that that there would be additional episodes? And if so, did you think that you would be featured in all of the films some seven years later? *I was bugging the hell out of Lora to make sure that there would be additional episodes, especially with the cliffhanger! As an actor, I'm very happy and humbled to have been featured in all three roles. The public expressing themselves had the writer's keep me and expand my role within the series. With part 3, you really get to see more of Jhalil Harris and the relationship that he and Kevin have had for nearly ten years together. It's just like anyone else's relationship. There will be good times and bad times but if you don't communicate there can be drama.*

As a person who is immersed in the theater, do you feel that there is a story left to tell about the experiences of Black LGBT/ Same Gender Loving people that hasn't been done yet? *Life is constantly changing. Human beings have documented their lives since early cave drawings. Yes, there is so much more to tell. So much more that folks need to see and be inspired by. I recently met one of your staffers at the 2008 MSM Conference on HIV/AIDS. DaShawn. Just talking to the young brotha and him asking me questions showed me that we can always learn and be inspired by one another.*

In this issue of the BASU SOURCE we will be listing a few of our favorite films made for, by, and about the Black LGBT Community. Do you have any favorites that you would like to share? *Yes, there are a few: Chocolate Babies from 1997. Looking for Langston by Isaac Julien, 1988, one of my favorites! Punks, or Living with Pride Ruth Ellis @ 100, the African film Dakan or Ritual by Stanley Bennett Clay. Strange Fruit, The Ski Trip and Dirty Laundry are must see's.*

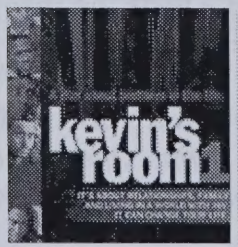
Do you have a favorite KEVIN'S ROOM episode? If yes, which one and why? *I have to say part one. It was the first and it broke ground.*

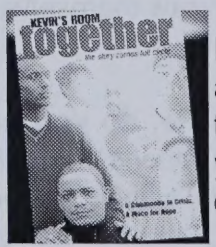


In *KEVIN'S ROOM 2: TRUST*, how did you feel about your character and his implied infidelity? *Well...as an actor, I was able to show more of who Jhalil was and I enjoyed working in part 2 and exploring what was up and could be up with him and Michael. Implied infidelity, well, stuff like that happens everyday in relationship doesn't it. Communication is so important in any relationship and all relationships no matter what they are, take work. I think if anyone has been in a relationship and your partner is out of work and they provided the cushion, you can imagine the stress that Jhalil was under. Remember that my character had also been lied to by his partner that he had a commitment ceremony with. Kevin never went back for his HIV results and we stopped using condoms. Then you lose your job and the ex pop's up to open a new branch of his company! Pretty tempting huh? Any relationship has it's ups and down, baby!*

Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself or the *KEVIN'S ROOM* series with our readers? *Thank you for watching the series and letting folks know about the films. I'm very proud of the work that I did and how it has meant so many things for so many people. Thank you for supporting the series and making it what it has become.*

Sanford, thank you for your time, friendship, talent, voice and brotherhood. Much love!





If you've never seen any of the *KEVIN'S ROOM* episodes during any of the screenings that BU has sponsored in Nashville over the years, don't worry, we will be providing more opportunities all year to see this ground breaking film series. You can also check out the official website at www.kevinsroom.org

Goodies for your LGBT DVD Library

Below you will find a short list of DVD's that are currently available to purchase with LGBT main characters. For a full listing of the films we've screened over the past 12 years go to our www.brothersunited website on the Nashville page under the film section. For a description of each of the films below check out www.tlavideo.com.

African American/Black Cast
DIRTY LAUNDRY
THE DL CHRONICLES (Season 1)
SKI TRIP
NOAH'S ARC (Season 1 & 2)
STRANGE FRUIT
RITUAL
THE CLOSET: Platinum Edition
BLACK AURA ON AN ANGEL
BROTHER 2 BROTHER
LOOKING FOR LANGSTON
TONGUES UNITED

Live/Entertainment
2006 CLIK HONORS
TRUTH ABOUT THE DL (Play)

Hispanic/Latino Cast
ON THE DOWNLOW
EAST SIDE STORY
QUINCEANERA
LOS JORNALEROS
BEAR CUB

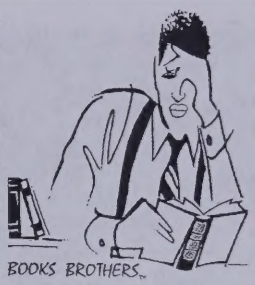
Mixed Ethnicity
BOY CULTURE
COFFEE DATE
THE RECEPTION

HIV Related
LIFE SUPPORT

Ball Room Scene
HOW DO I LOOK?
PARIS IS BURNING

International Films
DAKAN
METROSEXUALITY
YOUNG SOUL REBELS
KINKY BOOTS

Below are a list of some book titles that we have recently added to our "suggested reading" list from our website. To see our complete list from 1997 to 2008 check out our book club page on www.brothersunited.com. For more information about any of the books listed contact the staff at OUTLOUD Department Store in Nashville at (615) 340-0034 or e-mail them at outloud@outloudonline.com. You can also search the title or author on either google.com or amazon.com. If there is a particular title that you still can not find, feel free to e-mail us at booksbros@aol.com.



Brother to Brother (2007edition)	Hemphill/Beam
Blood Beats: Vol 2	Ernest Hardy
In Love with a Thug	Reginald L. Hall
Forbidden Fruit	Will Kane
Soul-Full & Rhythms	Leo Shelton
Blessed and Highly Favored	R. Bryant Smith
Other Countries	Black Gay Voices
My Love Life is a Slow Jam	Tommie Watkins
Their Own Receive Them Not	Horace L. Griffin
Getting in 2 My Shorts	Dwayne Carter
Eclectic Essence	Lorenzo C. Robertson
Creative Exchange	Victor Anderson
Gentleman Jigger	Richard Bruce Nugent
Three Sides to Every Story	Clarence Nero
The Song of a Man child	Durrell Owens
Details	Dayne Avery
My Man, My Boyz	Dwayne Vernon
A Private Affair	Michael Warren
Jaded	Kevin E. Taylor
Once You Go Black	Robert Reid Phairr
Balancing Act	J. Plummer & K. Hunter
That Moment When	George K. Jordan
The Messiah	Lee Hayes
Dark Reflections	Samuel R. Delany
Looker	Stanley Bennette Clay
Choices	Skyy
Covenant	Rashid Darden
Flirting	Tim'M T. West
Strapped	Laurinda D. Brown
Right side of the Wrong Bed	Frederick Smith
Impossible Dreams	Mykle Kane
Who is Jordan Carter?	TJ Delcon
Internal Chas	M.W. Moore
Two of Hearts	Richard Charlton Pharris Jones
Drifting Toward Love	Kai Wright
Unspeakable	Michael-Christopher

**Stay tuned to find out how to claim your ticket for a seat during Nashville Black Pride© in October **

An original show that delves into the various personalities of gay black men trying to find peace in thier lives.

For more information contact:

info@urbanmoonpublishing.net

Patti Labelle talks to CNN about new "down low" movie, COVER

Legendary soul singer Patti Labelle appeared on CNN Newsroom to talk about her new film "Cover" that explores the connection between men on the down low and the HIV/AIDS epidemic among black women. CNN host Betty Nguyen interviewed Labelle and introduced the piece by describing men on the down low as "having unprotected sex with other men and transmitting HIV to their girlfriends, even their wives."

Labelle, who plays a role in the movie as a mother with a son in the closet, described the down low problem as "a subject that people don't talk about." Labelle offered advice to women who find themselves in these situations. "I say if you have a little suspicion, walk girls"! "You know, because sometimes there are signs and you might not see them, and sometimes there are signs and you ignore them because you're so in love with these people." She also offered advice to those who are living on the down low. "If you're going to live a lifestyle, don't be afraid of it, don't be ashamed. Tell somebody so that you can save somebody."

Movie Synopsis: When Ryan Chambers is murdered on New Year's Eve, the prime suspect is Valerie Maas. Valerie is a church-going homemaker whose life unravels when she discovers that her husband of 15 years has not only been living a closeted gay life on the DL, he's infected her with HIV. Her strength of character and faith keeps the family alive as the disease threatens to destroy their happiness. The film is directed by Bill Duke and includes stars Vivica A. Fox, Mya and Louis Gossett Jr. This film is scheduled to be released on DVD on May 13th

IN RELATED NEWS; 1 in 4 American Teenage Girls Has an STD*: According to a study released on 3/11/08 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one in four teenage girls in the United States has at least one sexually transmitted disease (STD), the Associated Press/FoxNews.com reports .* ***The study also found that this rate was much higher among black girls, with nearly half of them having contracted an STD.*** *While HIV was not included in the study, girls with one or more STDs are at a higher risk for infection."High STD rates among young women, particularly African-American, are clear signs that we must continue developing ways to reach those most at risk," says Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's STD prevention division.*

HIV/AIDS in Middle Tennessee: Data provided by the Tennessee Department of Health & compiled by Nashville CARES

4,819 Middle Tennesseans are currently living with HIV/AIDS (68% of diagnosed).

About 300-340 new cases of HIV/AIDS are reported for Middle TN and 68% live in Davidson County.

In recent years (2002-2006):

African Americans=49% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN and 53% in Davidson County.

Hispanics=6% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN and also 6% in Davidson County.

Unsafe homosexual (MSM) behavior=49% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN & Davidson County

Unsafe heterosexual behavior=25-28% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN & Davidson County

Women in Middle TN & Davidson County =23% of new cases of HIV/AIDS

Teenagers & Youth age 15-24=13% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN & Davidson County

Injection drug users=8-9% of cases HIV/AIDS in Middle TN & Davidson County

Older Middle Tennesseans 55 and up=5-7% of HIV/AIDS cases in Middle TN & Davidson County

ALL sexually active people age 13 & up should get tested for HIV at least once a year!
That includes folks that are single, dating, partnered & married!

GET TESTED, PROTECT YOURSELF AND ALWAYS KNOW YOUR CURRENT STATUS

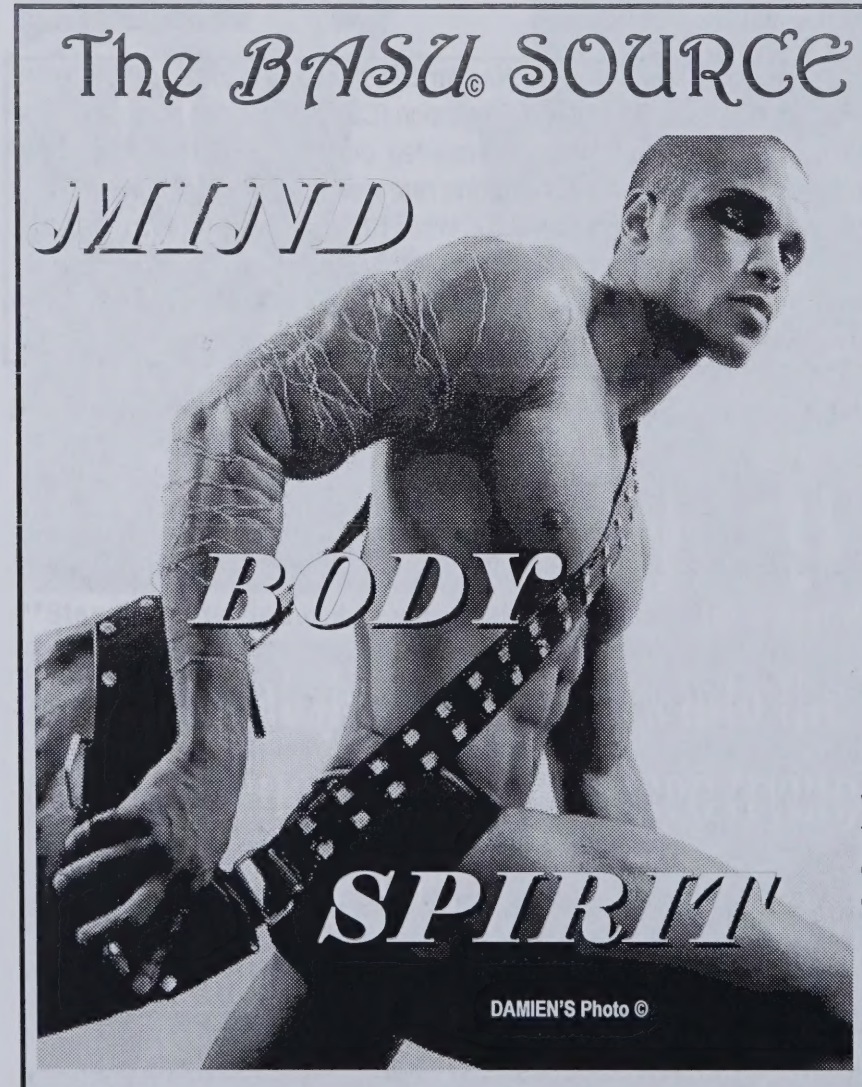
* Now available!
The OraQuick
20-minute
Rapid Screening

Finding out your HIV status is as easy as saying "aaah..."

It's free, confidential, 99% accurate and takes a few minutes.
No Blood-No Needles with results 20 minutes* or a few days

Call Nashville CARES to set up an appointment at 259-4866
and ask for either Dwayne (x 269) or DaShawn (x 221).

Nashville CARES is located off Brick Church Pike at 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Take I-24/I-65 Trinity Lane exit # 87 and go away from Dickerson Road under the expressway. At the light in front of the EXXON make a right towards the McDonald's on to Brick Church Pike. After you go up a small hill and pass the new Brick Church Middle School on your right, get in your center turning lane when you see the "END 15 Mile" School Sign, and make the next left into the Brick Church Business Park. Follow the hill up to the building with the watch tower and make a left in front of the 501 sign in the grass, and then a quick right into the parking lot and that is Nashville CARES. To avoid scheduling difficulties, we strongly suggest that you call to make an appointment rather than showing up as a walk-in.



The BASU SOURCE
JAN / FEB / MAR 2008 ISSUE
Award Winning Gospel Artist TONEX Reveals his "RAINBOW"
ISSUE # 60
Janet's back with major FEEDBACK
Photo recap of 2007 Nashville Black Pride
Happy New Year!

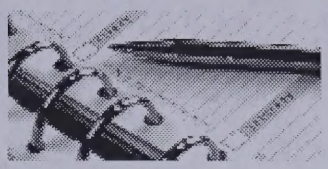
Nashville & Middle TN Residents *FREE*

Subscribe Today

With a current readership of over 750 households in Tennessee and across the country, you will not find a better deal anywhere! Let us be your local *source* of info into our ever changing Black LGBT/Same Gender Loving world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail for free. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order out to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.

The BASU© LGBT Community Calendar



The purpose of this Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered (LGBT) calendar is to help groups and organizations work cohesively with one another to allow everyone an opportunity to host and support events and not clash with others whenever possible. It is our hope that this calendar will be utilized to help cut down and eventually stop the overlapping of activities that occurs. The events and gatherings that will be mentioned include local, state, regional and national activities that Brothers United©,YBU, Sisters United or Nashville Black Pride© is either sponsoring, or supporting, as well as other activities submitted by our readers that target the LGBT community. These dates will also be posted on the events page our web site; www.brothersunited.com, and in our eSOURCE e-mail blasts. To submit an event, e-mail djenkins@nashvillecares.org. We respectfully reserve the right to edit or post all material.

APRIL

4/5: Nashville CARES Gay Men's Health Fair: 2-5 PM at Blu Bar & Night Club. Contact Ken Barton at 259-4866 x 305
BASU/NBP Volunteer Meeting: 3-5 PM at *SPECIAL LOCATION*: Blu Bar & Nightclub. Contact Dwayne 259-4866 x 269
YBU Movie Night: 6-8 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

4/6: Ms. All American Femme Pageant: Atlanta GA. Sponsored by the House of Santiago.

4/19: YBU Gathering: 5-7 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

4/20: Mr. Gay Tennessee USA FMI Pageant: Play Dance Club in Nashville. For info contact 615 498-1956.

4/24-26: Nt'l Black Justice Coalition: The Power of US National Convention: Baltimore, Maryland. Includes the Health & Wellness Summit, 3rd Annual Black Church Summit, and 2nd Annual Skills Building Leadership Development Conference. This annual gathering convenes the nation's preeminent thinkers to highlight Black LGBT couples, families, high profile activists, religious and spiritual leaders, organizers, artists, designers and more. For more information contact: www.nbjc.org

4/25: Conversations: a social gathering of men. RSVP required. Free food & refreshments. Contact Dwayne at 259-4866 x 269

4/29: Dining Out for Life: A benefit for Nashville CARES: This popular one-day event brings together dozens of Middle TN restaurants to donate 30% or more of their food sales to CARES. Last year the event attracted 8,000 dinners to 60 area locations and raised over $70,000 for HIV/AIDS prevention education & support services. Please join us to DINE OUT, FIGHT AIDS!

MAY

5/2: Old School Show: French Quarter Cafe': Sponsored by MAC Productions. Contact 615 498-1956

5/3: YBU Movie Night: 6-8 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

5/17: BASU/NBP Volunteer Meeting: 3-5 PM at CARES. Contact Dwayne 259-4866 x 269
YBU Gathering 5-7 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

5/18: HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

5/22-26: Miami Sizzle: This Circuit party event includes events from HIM & HER, www.sizzlemiami.com / www.sizzleher.com

5/23: Conversations: a social gathering of men. RSVP required. Free food & refreshments. Contact Dwayne at 259-4866 x 269

5/26: Memorial Day: Nashville CARES Closed

5/30-6/1: Nashville PRIDE Festival: www.nashvillepride.org

5/31: Southern Classic Drag King Extravaganza: Sponsored by MAC Productions. Contact 615 498-1956 for details.
YBU Movie Night: 6-8 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

JUNE

6/1: Nashville PRIDE Festival: www.nashvillepride.org

6/12-15: Memphis Black Pride: Contact terrylbuck61@aol.com / 901 331-3438

6/27: National HIV Testing Day: No Blood or needles! Contact Dwayne (x 269) or DaShawn (x 221) at CARES 615 259-4866.
Conversations: a social gathering of men. RSVP required. Free food & refreshments. Contact Dwayne at 259-4866 x 269

6/28: YBU Movie Night: 6-8 PM at CARES. Contact DaShawn at 615 259-4866 x 221

JULY

7/10-13: Nt'l Black Lesbian Conference: Las Vegas, Nevada www.zunainstitute.org

7/17-20: Miami Beach Brothaz Event: is an annual Black and Latino gay and same gender loving retreat and social on South Beach. The event includes a male model search and high fashion show, BBQ pool party, networking socials, club parties, workshops, bowling tournament and more! Get the details at www.miamibeachbruthaz.com or visit www.myspace.com/miamibeachbruthaz

7/23-27: Adodi Summer Retreat-"Living our Authentic Adodi Lives": Burr Oak Resort and Conference Center Burr Oak State Park Glouster, OH. $575 before 6/15 & $625 after (double occupancy) Adodi National, PO Box 1460, Chicago IL 60690-1460.

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE © # 6

"I Am Because We Are"

Friday October 24th - Sunday 26th, 2008

Office: 615 259-4866 x 269 / Toll Free : 800 845-4266 x 269
Cell: 615 974-2832 / Fax: 615 259-4849 Attn: Dwayne
E-mail: NashBlackPride@aol.com / Website: www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm
My Space: www.myspace.com/nashvilleblackpride / For All Black Pride info: www.ifbprides.org

Host Hotel: HOTEL PRESTON, 733 Briley Parkway, 37217

Brothers United Network, Inc is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization that has provided education, affirmation & pride to Tennessee's Black LGBT Community since 1996.
Proud Member, International Federation of Black Prides Organization

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Mention "Nashville Black Pride" for the special $109 Room Rate. Deadline for discount is 9/30/08

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nashville pride

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

NBJC

921 Queer Talk

MAC Productions

here! Gay Television. No Apologies.

Gay-Straight Alliance at Tennessee State University

Gay-Straight Alliance at Fisk University

National Association of People with AIDS (US) NAPWA

GILEAD

MyHIVLife.com

Cardinal Health Foundation

2 GENRE PRODUCTIONS "In Art We Trust"

TN Transgender Political Coalition

Planned Parenthood Middle and East Tennessee

KAZANA Scholarship Fund

nashville in harmony a city chorus for GLBT people & friends

RxChicago "Making Chicago the healthiest city in the U.S." Chicago Department of Public Health STD/HIV/AIDS Division & Office of LGBT Health

BLU BAR AND NIGHTCLUB

STUDVILLE

THE GAY AND LESBIAN

LAVENDERPOP

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

fireink

out central

GREGMCNEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

GMAD

THE SOURCE 2002

The official Newsletter of Brothers United Nashville and its affiliate chapters.

WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images.

Volume 4, Issue 40

Brothers United Nashville ™

Celebrating our 40th Issue !

In this issue:

Richard C. Jones asks "Can a Brotha Get Some Luv?"

Excerpts from the Editor's time in bed with two Strippers & a Porn Star

Naya responds to Pride drama

Victoria tells her secret

The Federation of Black PRIDE protects & serves

Regeneration

Oct / Nov / Dec

$3 Value

CYC Studios / Juan Pont Lezica ©

Don't let a reflection of your past creep up on you...
Get Tested for HIV, it's better to know
SAFE IN MY BROTHAS' EMBRACE
SIMBE Health Project / Brothers United TN Model File Photo ©

THE SOURCE

This newsletter is published quarterly for all the volunteers of the Brothers United Network of Tennessee chapters and other regional affiliates that provide HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and education. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by BU or Nashville CARES. Names and pictures of persons appearing in THE SOURCE are no indication of sexual orientation.

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BU Models: *Tony, Bobby, Angle, Ernest, Renol, Sex Appeal, Dicksman, Bobby B., Dwayne, Lebron, Victor, Antonio, & Roger.*

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www.brothersunited.com

Agency web-site: *www.nashvillecares.org*

ALL CORRESPONDENCES ARE
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& CONFIDENTIAL

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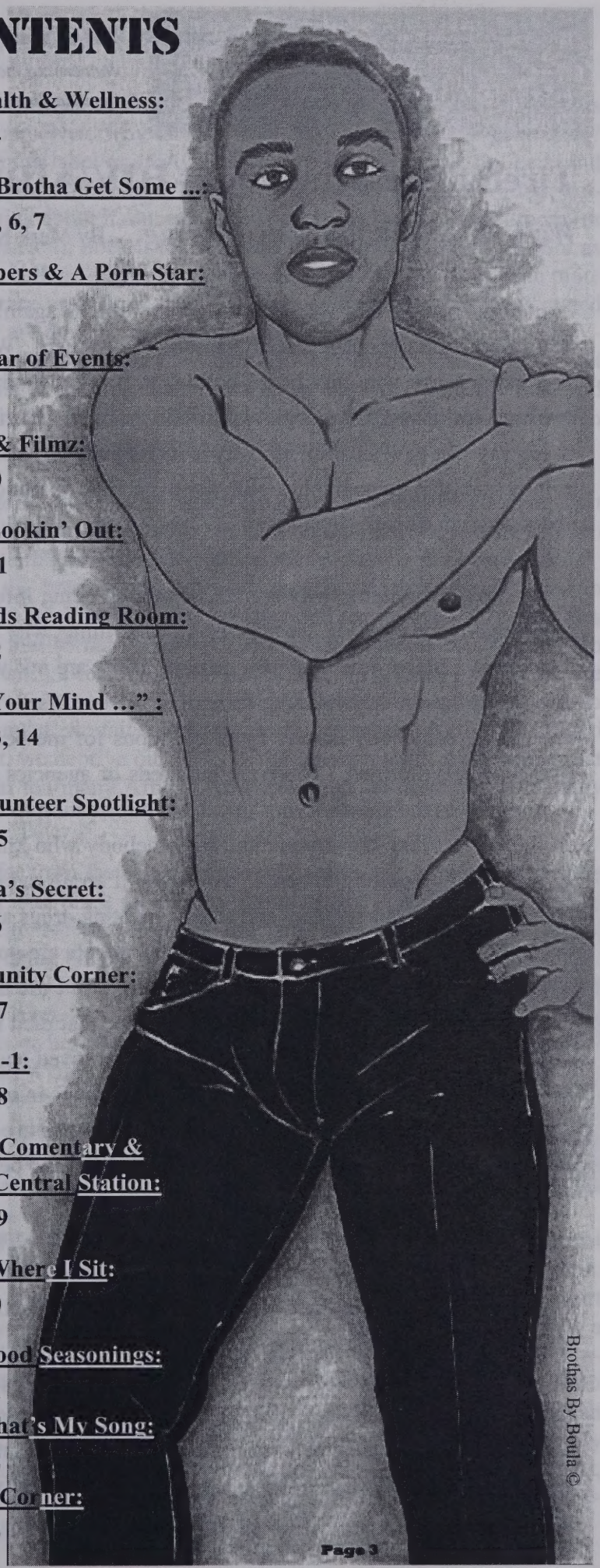


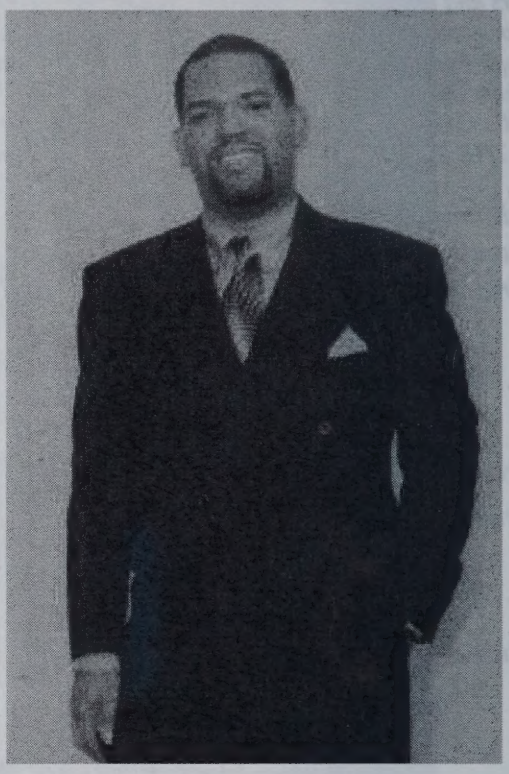
Brothas By Boula ©

BU Health & Wellness Corner

Providing info that covers topics concerning the anal, oral and genital hygiene & maintenance of Gay Men.

Tired of hearing about HIV/AIDS?

Well, since you know everything.... By Mark Knight

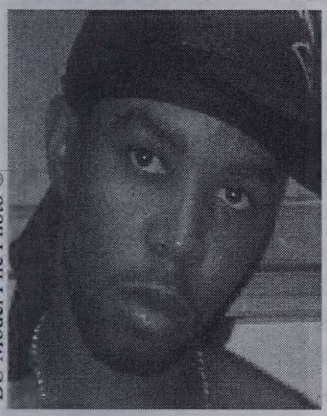


I know. I know. Here we go talking about AIDS again! Everybody has heard everything about it already! Enough is enough! Well guess what? Too bad, 'cause you ain't heard nothin', yet! Somebody is missing the message and it is OUR people within the African American community. If you say you have heard it all, why is it, yet and still, that the Black community are the demographic still showing new infection rates soaring above everyone else?

If we know everything, why are Black women being infected at a higher rate than anyone else? If we have heard everything, why are Black babies infected at a higher rate than anyone else? Why are our young men being infected at the age of 14 and up faster than anyone else? If we have heard everything, somebody answer those questions for me because apparently I've been misinformed. There are hundreds of agencies across the country being operated by African Americans who go out in the streets trying to get the information to those who need it. You see billboards. You hear about it on the news. Almost everyone knows somebody who knows somebody that has HIV or has died from AIDS. So, why are we still getting infected? Are we still afraid to talk about sex? Is it still something we do in the dark? Do we believe all of our brothers and sisters shooting drugs are lost? Do we just not give a damned anymore? I refuse to accept that. I refuse to believe that Black people are going to continue to remain ignorant to the facts about HIV/AIDS. I refuse to believe that the people that I love are thinking that it is still someone else's problem even though somebody just came from a funeral of someone that died from AIDS. I know there are mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers who have suffered the loss of a loved one. I also know that they are more than willing to speak out and let everyone know just how real this epidemic is in our community. I know there are ministers and community leaders taking action to see that community programs are funded allowing those on the front line to continue doing the work of saving lives. I know these things. I want to believe these things.

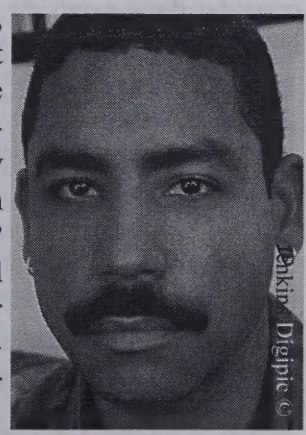
Why, with all of the aforementioned resources that are available, are we not using them? I know, we are waiting for someone else to make it go away. If we continue turning a blind eye to the simple facts that we are dying, hoping and praying that one day (hopefully overnight) this vicious disease disappears, the 45 million who are already infected in the world will double in twenty years. If you're having sex, protect yourself, and I'm not talking about with birth control pills. I'm talking about what high schools have been warned not to talk about; that's right I'm talking about condoms. If you're shooting drugs, don't share needles. If you share needles and have unprotected sex, you will eventually become infected and not knowing will kill you. Period. Those are the facts, like it or not. The question I'd like to leave you with is, "Is it really worth your life?"

CAN A BROTHA GET SOME LOVE? by Richard Charlton Jones


BU Model File Photo ©

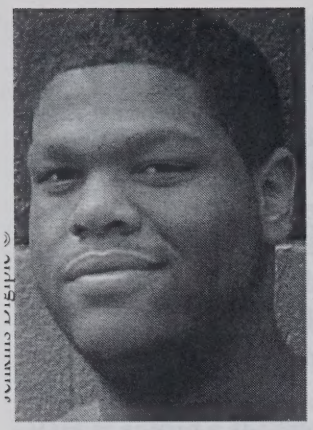
If you are a single, spontaneous, spiritual, and not a superficial black man, then this article is most definitely for you! Ask yourselves, why is it so damn difficult to find a good man? Should brothas come with a warning label or an AOL alert? What does no fats, no fems, and no fakes really mean? Don't they need love too? Does it really matter if you are a top, bottom, or versatile? If you really think about it, once the lights are turned off in the bedroom (or wherever it is you gets your freak on), does it really matter who's doing what to whom as long as it is pleasurable? Does a college degree or a high-paying job make a black man more attractive? Is dating outside the race an option? And if you are of the belief that God created someone for everyone, then why are there so many single bruhs out there? If a brotha is HIV-positive or has full-blown AIDS, does that automatically disqualify him from being loved? Damn! Can a Brotha get some Love? Whether or not you subscribe to everyone and everything that shows up in our lives comes to heal and teach us more about ourselves, why are so many black gay men struggling to deal with issues of love and romance when it's just enough to deal with being black and gay? Do these perceived threats trigger reactions, fear, and resistance?

How are some black gay couples able to maintain a long-term relationship nearly ten years or more while others can't make it beyond the six-month mark? Whether it's in the clubs, on the Internet, in bath houses, at fuck parties, or even attending church, there are so many players that it makes one think romance in the black gay lifestyle is a board game. Slavery's scars still ripple through black bloodlines and the brotherhood has been greatly affected. African men in America have never fully learned to give and receive love freely. That means being open and expressive, and sometimes even vulnerable. Stillwaters06@aol.com offers: "I believe that so many barriers exist which prevents black men from finding their 'one true love'. First, we have to believe that such a relationship is sustainable. In a society where we are socialized to be heterosexual, few of us learn the 'ground rules' for a male-to-male relationship. Simply because we do not understand the dynamics of two men in a loving agreement, we fail to believe that it can exist." We play that hard role all our lives and whether we choose to believe it or not, we deprive ourselves of the inner strength and serenity that comes with self-expression. And for this reason, I think, far too many African American men are destroyed when they are boys, not when they reach adulthood.


Pakip Digipic ©

Not ashamed of my game, I, like many other brothers, suffer from their own emotional neglect, rooted in the seeds of fear and nurtured by racism, poverty, and black machismo. But does that really play into 2002? More black men have attended college, received degrees, and some have even gone on to pursue a higher academic education. Does being on the 'down low' help or hinder finding a good man? What the hell gives? Before this article was written, I entered every chat room that AOL has that caters to black and Latino gay men. I asked several questions such as: What is a good man? Are you a good man? Do friends or best friends make better lovers? Why or why not? Can a lover be a good friend? Do you know only one, ONE, bruh responded with an email that was not clichéd? I don't know about you, but before I began preparing for this article, I entered chat rooms in the hopes I'd meet someone I could relate to on a very spiritual level. If I didn't know then what I know now, most bruhs are about one thing, SEX! Their profiles are filled with their dick size, how tight their asses are, and the times they are available.

I consider myself to be a spiritual (but not religious), sexual (but not a slut), intelligent (but not nerdy), sensitive (but not wimpy), masculine (but not thuggish), handsome (but not shallow) black man. So why am I single? It's simple. I refuse to find 'em, fuck 'em, and flee. I desire a brotha that I can commune with, communicate with, and share-heart-to-heart with. I don't think this is really too much to ask for, but you know, for some bruhs it is! Another factor for finding a good man is that they are usually on the opposite coast! I think I should get my own talk show once this article is completed: I think relationships basically fall into three categories, which sometimes can blur into one another: 1) the mind/intellectual relationship, 2) the heart/emotional relationship, and 3) the body/sexual relationship. Is finding a good man so difficult that whatever irritates us about a person should be examined? I mean is a feminine bruh a fear so deeply rooted in us that we would be considered a punk to our families or friends if they found we are gay? If a person were fat, does that mean this man reflects our own behavior of gluttony, whether it is sex, the clubs, or drugs? Are these behaviors we fail to realize within ourselves that need to be changed? (continued on page 6)



(continued from last page) Stillwaters@aol.com adds: "As African American (gay) men, we refuse to be vulnerable to our partners. We think we have been 'punked' if we allow them to have the upper hand. Unfortunately, in every relationship, we are going to have to yield control (or power) to our partner at some point. Some brothers never get over the experience and immediately start looking for an out." It's okay to be selective. Finding a good man is like going to an auto dealership or the grocery store. You gonna walk around for a few minutes, and you're gonna kick the tires, test drive the vehicle or look at the expiration date on the gallon of milk and feel the melons to see if they are ripe enough. What I am looking for is a brotha's spirit and his heart, the kindness he shows others and the reverence he has for my beliefs. I want a man of his word. My daddy always told me that a black man ain't nothin' if he breaks his word.

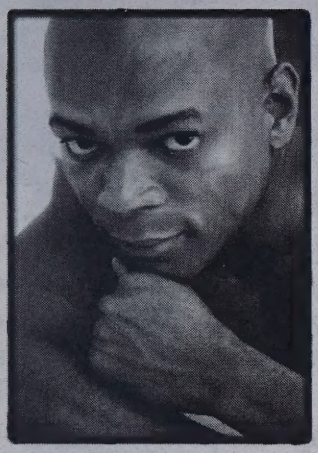
BU Model File Photo ©

Finding a good man means that we have to be honest in what we want. My standards are high. I now know what I am willing to do deal with and negotiate in order to have my needs met and to meet those of my partner. Trust is definitely a factor. I am comfortable within myself enough to accept the fact, that yeah, I like men, and I am secure enough in my manhood that me loving men is an added bonus. I know that navigating for some is easier than it is for others, however anyone who has the sense God gave a goose should know that with all the crap we sometimes put-up with can turn a good man bad? To hear any of us tell it, partnering is a big headache, and most of us are much happier being alone. There remains a great, unfulfilled need in our souls for sharing our lives deeply with a mate. Most people live and die without doing the deep emotional work necessary to heal and be happy. It seems easier to run away from the emotional pain than to dig beneath the scars to learn why we feel afraid, insecure, or jealous. Calling up unhealed parts of ourselves and opening up old wounds can be traumatic. This is why, I think, so many of us carefully and fearfully shun intimacy. Many of us brothers feel distrustful and swear we'll never let another brotha close enough to hurt us again. We may resent the fool who betrayed us a week, month, or decade ago, but was he emotionally healthy enough to have a front-row seat in our lives in the first place and did he have a connection whatsoever to the millions of beautiful brothers on the planet who want to love and be loved? Living in San Diego has me almost wanting to step to the other side, meaning dating white boys. But, I am forever the optimist! Which brings me to my next point: would you consider dating outside your race? What are your thoughts about interracial dating? Why do we show disdain to those brothers who date white boys when we don't want those particular brothas?

Shunning intimacy helps us maintain the illusion that our problem is with the other person. Our wounds and anxieties can be ignored and left to quietly eat away our soul and sanity when we're solo and no one is questioning or challenging us. Think about it: God had Noah put 2 of every animal on the Ark. We were created for one another, to come together, to be challenged and tested, and to learn to love and live with our differences. A love relationship is where we put into practice the lessons we learn in tolerance, patience, commitment, and courage, fundamental respect for self and others. Back in 1997, I found a good man after a string of failed romances. I think we would still be together if it had not been for him passing away from AIDS in 1999. I met my ex 11 years after I broke up with an ex-lover whom I found in bed with another man. And it has been nearly 3 years since my ex passed that I've been single.

Personally, the ideals for finding a good man are what I like and love about myself: 1) I can take myself to a fancy restaurant, the theater, a concert, church, or wherever, and not have a problem. Not many people enjoy spending time alone with themselves. My daddy has gotten into the habit of calling me The Lone Ranger, but you know, the chances of meeting someone whom you like are always greater when you go out rather than sitting at home alone. When I first relocated to San Diego in '97, I found myself at Balboa Park, reading an old favorite novel. This brotha approached me as I was leaving the park. We exchanged names, we were both named Richard. We began talking and learned: we both were in the same branch of service, attended historically black colleges, pledged the same fraternity, and we both had brothers with 2 kids (his a boy and a girl and mine with 2 boys). And, our birthdays were a day apart in June! 2) Be familiar with life's pleasures: My momma always told me to read anything I could get my hands on because she said that you never know what type of people you'll meet and what conversation will ensue. With this combination of happiness and directness, I have found that I am not afraid to be blunt as to what is on my mind, I am confident that I am an interesting black gay man. I had this one on-line experience that this brotha said I was too much. I conveyed to him that he wasn't enough. (continued page # 7)

(continued from page 6)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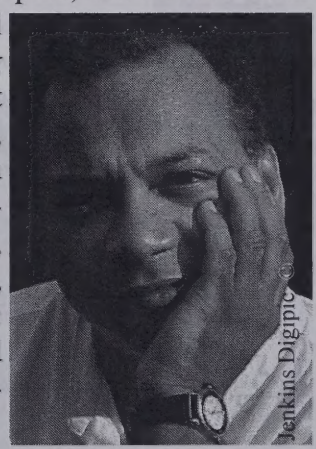
3) *Sexually, being straightforward with your man and asking him what he likes can open many doors of pleasures between the two of you.* I am an admitted freak and there are some things I wouldn't mind trying a second or third time, but, there are some things I have tried once and will never try again. Versatility is the key here fellas! 4) *Compromise!* My ex and I were and are die-hard fans of Star Trek: Voyager and The Young and the Restless, respectively. Instead of infringing upon those hours, we either recorded or waited until those programs were off before we commenced to have our private time. Since we both worked during the day, I would record Y and R and watch it either on the weekend or later that night. 5) *We didn't sweat the small stuff.* We didn't allow ourselves to get up into arguing about trivial things. Our relationship was truly give and take. We built upon our respective strengths and not allow our weaknesses to interfere. 6) *We were individuals*. He had his hobbies as I had mine. He had his friends; I had mine.

Stillwaters06@aol.com believes that "we have no problem finding the right brotha because he is our running partner, fraternity brother, confidant, and best friend. The problem is that we do not have a paradigm in which to shift him from the mental and spiritual roles to integrate the physical aspects which 'true love' demand". I came out when I was two weeks shy of my 21st birthday, and I learned what I didn't want from a lover: a smoker, a crack head, a thief or liar, or someone who did not know the meaning of what fidelity or monogamy meant. My ex was 36 and I thought I could really learn from someone who has seen something of the world. I am now 35. I am older. I am mature emotionally and mentally. I learned to forgive all the black men who've hurt me in the past. I moved forward into new experiences without the baggage of the past. If something is bothering me, believe me, I no longer bite my tongue. As my momma always said, she wasn't a mind reader, and you know Miss Cleo is off the air battling in court. So, she's of no use. I read something in a magazine that I think is quite relevant: 1) *Love yourself.* I love the fact that I am slender with a 28 waist. I love the fact that I am 5'5. I am exactly the way God intended me to be. 2) *Regard every encounter as an important learning experience:* We learn communication skills, emotional dynamics, a few sexual tricks, and the art of relationship reruns 3) *Keep a relationship log*. I can't begin to tell you how many journals I have, that date back to the late '80s. I have found that this is a strategic way of assessing the impact of each person I dated in my lifetime. Every New Year, I look back to see how much love I gave, how much love was given back to me, to see if I grew as a person. This also provides an insight to see if I am a giver or a taker. Lord knows I learned what relationships were detrimental to my spirit! 4) *Get rid of all those bad scripts on romantic relationships*. Life is like a soap opera; sex doesn't mean you are forming a relationship. **It's a booty call**. Learn the difference! Every time you spill that seed means you are leaving a little bit of yourself behind! 5) *Don't look for others to bring love into your life and don't fear that they will take it away*. Love is stable and spiritual, most bruhs aren't stable or are very unspiritual. I am the type of bruh who, like Evilene in *The Wiz*, don't wanna hear no bad news! Control is not love! Look at finding a good man like this: if you are too needy, you will, gimme an 'A', as in abuser. If you are feeling helpless in a new relationship, you are attracted to a 'BBD', as in a bossy big daddy. And if you are too desperate, you will get a 'TB', a temporary brotha who believes in black magic tricks: now you see him, now you don't! 6) *AOL is not a substitute for meeting bruhs in the flesh.* Take it for what it is: entertainment. People use the chat rooms for what they need at the time. You may have needed some attention and you got it. All this "you send a pic first and I'll think about sending" madness is foolishness. If you are giving more than you're receiving, a red flag should be waving!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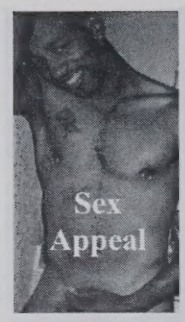
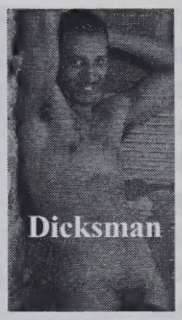
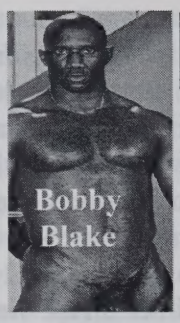
If we are ever to become involved in a loving, respectful, monogamous relationship with another black man, then we have to first learn how to become better men. And that means learning to express our feelings and show emotions. True manhood is not measured by the size of our dicks. They shrivel up when we reach a certain age! Nor is manhood measured by how hard we look (this for all you thugs, wanna-be thugs, or thugs-in-training) or how many emotions we can mask, but by taking full responsibility for the way we think, we feel, we act, we will become lovers that we are all looking for! I think to find a good man; a black gay man's soul must be free and fearless. Express your fears or resentment to make room for good feelings. Choose to love, and choose wisely the person to share your life with. To find your good man, you must be willing to be found. (Hello! I'm in San Diego!) Like India Arie, I am ready for Love!

Richard Charlton Jones is a single, slender, spiritual, spontaneous, and not a superficial brotha residing in San Diego. He has written several book reviews for The SOURCE (see page # 12 for his latest review, bio and photo)







My Afternoon In Bed With 2 Strippers & A Porn Star

It all began so innocently. I was attending the annual Brothers United of Memphis Southern Heritage Classic Weekend event and prepared to do my regular outreach and mingling. This year, Anthony aka First Lady Hardaway had some major celebrating going on. Through the collaborative efforts of Friends For Life, "A" Triple "T" Productions, and other members of the African American Gay Community, we gathered at the new Black Same Gender Loving Alliance Cultural & Resource Center. This grand opening included a tour of the facility, a reception and book signing for Keith Barbee, Co-Author of The Hot Life (see page 13 for a taste), and well known photographer RUNDO, author of the new male only coffee table book, "Wet Dreams". After Keith read a few of his works, participants got a chance to discuss different views and life experiences shared through his poetry. This is where I first met and was introduced to two strippers named "Sex Appeal" and "Dicksman" (featured in the October 2002 issue of Black Inches). Both men were very vocal and articulate, which surprised a lot of people. For some reason, folks don't think that Strippers can give good conversation and shake their dicks too. Well I'm here to set the record straight brothas...they can do both! The next morning after our night at Club N'Cognito, Lady Hardaway, Sex Appeal and Dicksman and I gathered in a room to chill. We were laying across the bed watching video tapes of their performances and got to chatting. The following excerpt is my attempt to capture that moment among new friends:

BU: Why did you become a stripper/erotic dancer? What do you like about your chosen profession?

SA: *I've always liked to entertain people. Being an entertainer has always been a dream of mine. I love to get into character and act out my emotions through music and dance. I like creating an atmosphere for my audience. My costumes are also very important to me even though I eventually come out of them.*

DM: "It was hard at first to take my clothes off (pun intended), but once I get into the song everything changes. I work internally as well. That is why I feel that my selections of songs are a major part of my performance. I like to hold the audiences attention through my act and can actually be exhausted after I go on".

SA & DM: *People think stripping is easy, but it isn't. It takes a lot of concentration and talent to do this work!*

BU: What do you not like about stripping? Is there one thing that can just set / piss you off?

SA: *I hate when brothas say stuff like; "you don't have to strip for a living, I can take care of you..."*

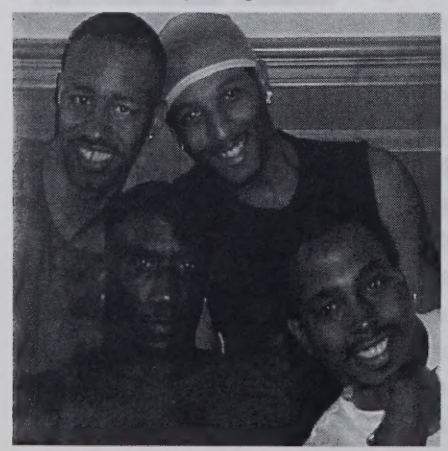
DM: "Me too! Oh man you don't know how that offends me. First of all, we can take care of ourselves, and don't need others to try and keep/own us! Another thing is when brothas feel all up on you and not tip you".

SA: *Yeah, it's one thing to cop a feel, but guys wanna stroke your dick and fondle us for free and that is not the name of this game by any means. When all is good, we can make our best money when we work the floor some nights.*

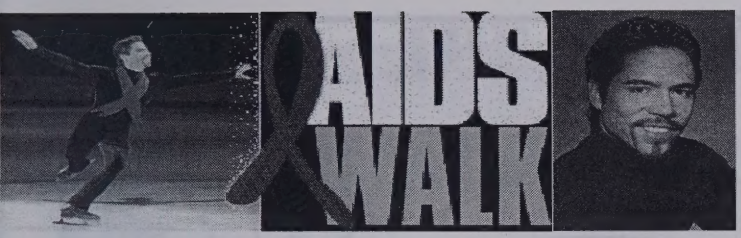
At this time, world renown Porn Star Bobby Blake bust through the door with a friendly greeting of "What's up brothas?!" After we were introduce, he joined the rest of us on the bed and we continue chatting about their lives. It was weird, it was as if we all knew each other for years, and were just playing catch-up as old friends do.

BU: So Bobby, what are your feelings about today's porn industry? Do you still enjoy what you do?

BB: Man look, I am 45 years old. People think I am this character 24-7. That's just not correct. I have been retired for almost two years now and have currently started dancing again, like the guys, to keep active. The porn industry has been very, very good to me. I get to travel the world over, get to visit good friends, and enjoy all of the free perks of being a celebrity of sorts. Some of the bad things that brothas don't hear about is some of the industry racism that you can encounter. Can you believe that I was the first African American to win the porn industry Probe Award? I was also the first Black model ever featured on the cover of Unzip Magazine. I'm not boasting, just acknowledging how brothas like Joe Simmons were looked over time after time. You can also get hate mail, and even have to deal with stalkers in this type of business. That is neither fun nor glamorous. I try and help the new comers out and make sure they keep their finances straight. Everyone that says they're your friend isn't!



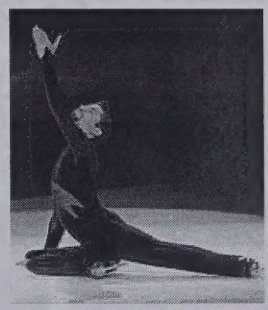
This is just a brief snippet of our conversations we had on the bed that afternoon. I truly felt honored that each of the guys felt comfortable enough to chat with Hardaway and I. You can expect to see each of the guys in an upcoming issue of The SOURCE doing their part to help promote safer sex and HIV prevention education. Even though the world may get to see their live performances, view them on video, or have the opportunity to tip and touch their firm asses and 10 inch plus dicks, I am thankful that I was able to get to know them more intimately as Maurice, Earl and Edgar, whom are no longer just two strippers and a porn star to me.



AIDS Walk 2002, Sunday, October 20

Centennial Park, Nashville - Rain or Shine!

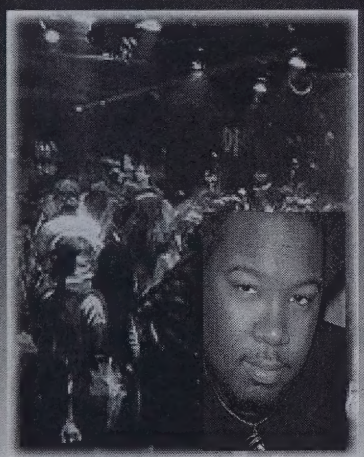
A message from Rudy Galindo, 2002 Honorary AIDS Walk Chair, 1996 US Nationals Figure Skating Champion



When I first learned I had HIV I thought I would never skate again. I made the decision to go public to help educate others about risk behaviors. With all the recent advances in treatment people tend to think HIV/AIDS as a disease that can be "managed", if they think about it at all. But not everyone is as fortunate-the medications are very expensive, difficult to take and have some pretty serious side effects. Make no mistakes, there is no cure for AIDS! This is why Nashville CARES is such an important organization. 40% of its operating budget comes from fundraising events like this, and from individual contributions. Please join me in supporting CARES. **Step Out. Stop AIDS.**

Missed SIMBE Social 4 in October?, Then you must come to

SIMBE SOCIAL # 5 *"The day after Thanksgiving"*, Friday, November 29



Featuring *The Spin Doctor* DJ Robbie Rob from Cleveland Ohio.

9 pm - 2 am at The ONYX Room

624 Jefferson Street-Nashville /Admission is $5 or FREE*

*(if you take a HIV OraSure swab test *) No Blood, No needles, with results back in days!*

Safe In My Brothas Embrace is a Brothers United health project that promotes HIV OraSure testing in social settings for Black Gay Men, their partners, families & friends. All are welcome! Contact Dwayne at 259-4866 / (800) 845-4266* ext 269 or *brosunited@aol.com

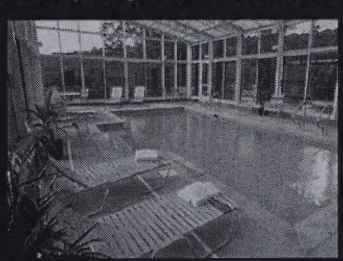
Brothers United Winter Retreat VI

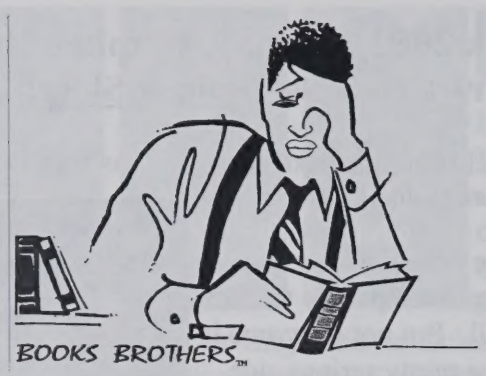
Thursday, December 5 — Sunday, December 8, 2002

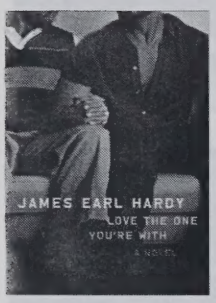
Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns TN

- *Registration is $165.00 per person.*
- *Financial Assistance Applications are available.*
- *Site has hotel style lodging, exercise room, indoor pool & outdoor hot tub.*
- *Cost includes lodging, meals, workshops and Fashion Show.*
- *Deadline for payment is Friday, November 1, 2002.*
- *Call Dwayne at 259-4866 / (800) 845-4266 x 269 or brosunited@aol.com.*

NOW FEATURING:
The Men Of Rainbow



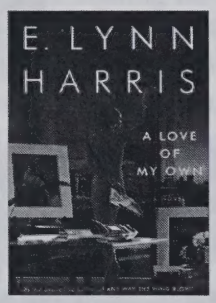




October 17
2002

"Love The One Your With"

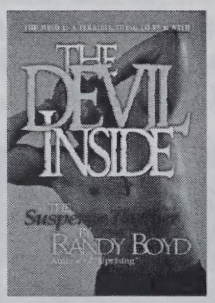
James Earl Hardy



November 21
2002

"A Love Of My Own"

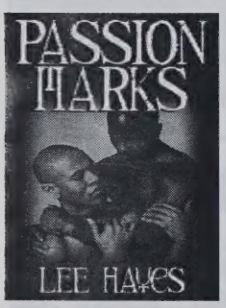
E. Lynn Harris



January 16
2003

"The Devil Inside"

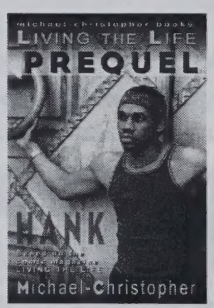
Randy Boyd



February 20
2003

"Passion Marks"

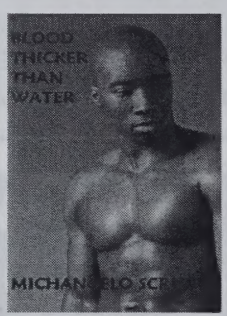
Lee Hayes



March 20
2003

"Living The Life Prequel-HANK"

Michael-Christopher

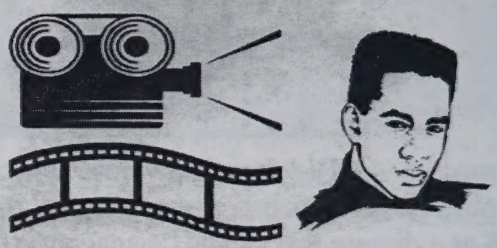


April 17
2003

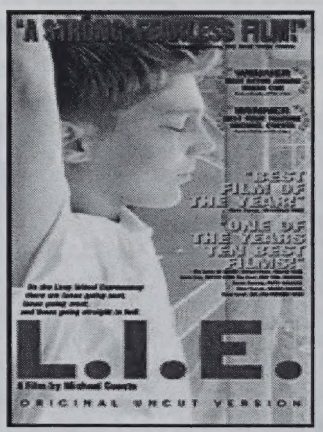
"Blood Thicker Than Water"

Michangelo Scruggs

Brothers United Nashville presents...



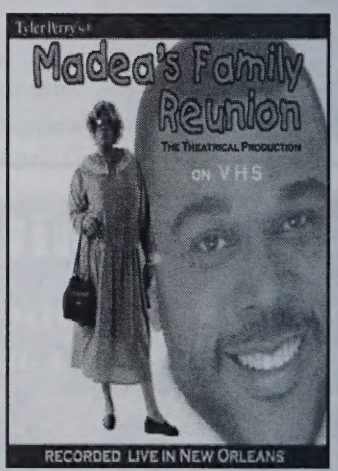
Men On Filmz



Saturday, October 19
"L .I .E ." 8 PM

Saturday, November 16
"Jackie's Back" 8 PM

Saturday, December 19
'Parental Guidance" 8 PM

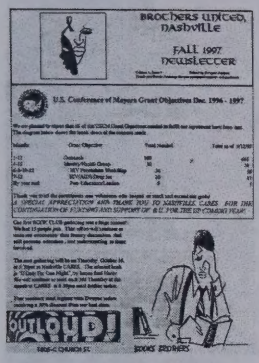


Saturday, January 18 2003
"Madea's Family Reunion"
8 PM

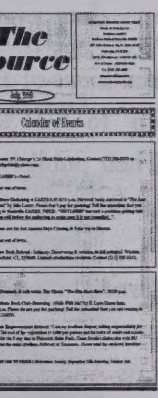
Official Book Club Members receive an additional 20% off the book of the month compliments of our host store OUTLOUD Department Store. Our purpose for reading literature and showing a movie each month is to offer African American Same Gender Loving Men, Women, partners and friends a different type of social outlet that is both non-threatening and educational. Discussions of the books and films are provocative, entertaining, and sometimes emotional. Free snacks, popcorn, and beverages are always available. Each takes place at Nashville CARES. Bring a friend & make new ones!

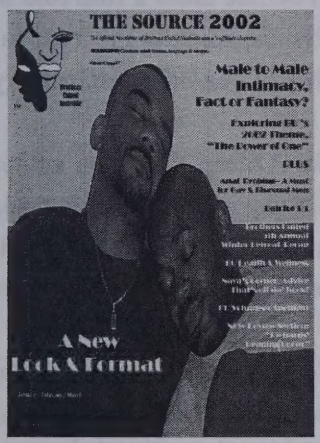
FOR OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY
OUTLOUD!
NASHVILLE'S GAY & LESBIAN DEPARTMENT STORE
1709 Church St Nashville TN 37203

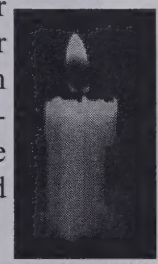
THE SOURCE: *Celebrating our 40th issue!*



In September of 1997 Brothers United (BU) mailed our first newsletter. This single sheet of paper with information on both sides went out to about 50 people in the Nashville area. We started out as a monthly publication that served to keep volunteers updated on our program Grant Objectives and calendar of events. Because of the development of other BU chapters in the state, our mailing list grew to over 100 within a year. From March of 1998 through November 1999 volunteer Jerome Wright took on the responsibility of designing, co-editing, and printing all the publications on his time and dime (you go boyee!!). In February of 1999 we started calling our newsletter **THE SOURCE**. As time grew we developed into a 2-paged four sided newsletter with more graphics and photos utilizing Memphis artist Bobby Jones aka Boula, and BU Models. Calls continued to flow in from people in and out of state to be added to the list. The last big design change took place this year, with the addition of a cover page and magazine style format. After taking a photo of Antheny and Romas during our 2001 BU Winter Retreat, I knew that such an image could instantly capture our readers on a daily basis. Today our "news-mag-rag" is currently 24 pages long, has a host of dedicated contributing writers, and is distributed to over 500 Same Gender Loving (SGL) households nationally. It also reaches up to 100 people from local SGL news stands. With such advances and regional flava' we had to change our releases over time from monthly to bi-monthly, to our current quarterly status. This candle not only represents our on-going acknowledgment of those that have passed on, but also serves as our birthday flame of hope, of vision, and of encouragement. Since there have been so many wonderful SGL publications around the country that have recently retired (SBC, Clikque, Buti VOXX to name a few), it is our intention to continue publishing **THE SOURCE** for as long as we can to help educate, empower, and uplift our peeps. We celebrate this issue with all of our readers, you're the best!



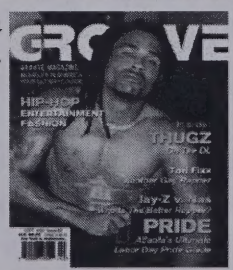


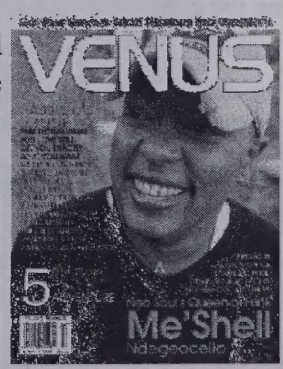


GOOD LOOKIN' OUT...

The Brothers United Nashville Chapter & OUTLOUD Department Store have issued their 10% Holiday Coupons again this year for your shopping enjoyment. Okay chil-ren let's buy, buy buy!

Because of the generous contributions of both VENUS Magazine and GROOVE Magazine, the BU Nashville chapter distributes free issues of these publications to our volunteers and event participants on a first come first serve basis. Ya' see, being actively involved does have it's perks!

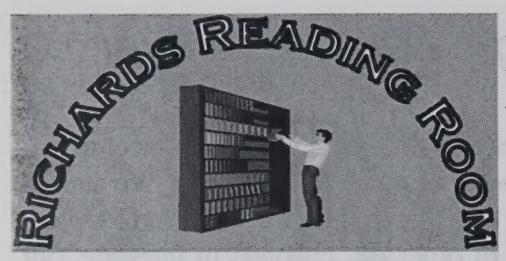




BU Nashville Holiday Calendar of Events:

(Please call Dwayne at CARES for all times and locations)

- Thanksgiving Day, **11/28:** **Meals on Wheels** Delivery Service, 10 AM
- Thanksgiving Day, **11/28:** **BU Volunteer Potluck**, 2 PM- 8 PM Free to all with a covered dish!
- Day after *Turkeyday*, **11/29:** **SIMBE Social # 5** featuring DJ Robbie Rob from Cleveland Ohio (see page 9)
- Christmas Day, **12/25:** **Meals on Wheels** Delivery Service, 10 AM

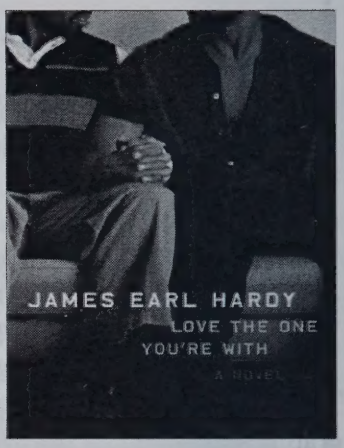


Love the One You're With

by James Earl Hardy

Amistad/Harper Collins Publishers

$22.95



"Everything old is new again" so the saying goes. The Hardy Boys are back in the fifth installment of James Earl Hardy's *B-Boy Blues* series, *Love the One You're With*. First of all, a 'big up' to JEH for finally getting that corporate support from publishing mainstay, HarperCollins. Their publisher imprint, Amistad, has just released this sequel. And, JEH has also been mentioned in *Entertainment Weekly* and the hip-hop bible *VIBE*.

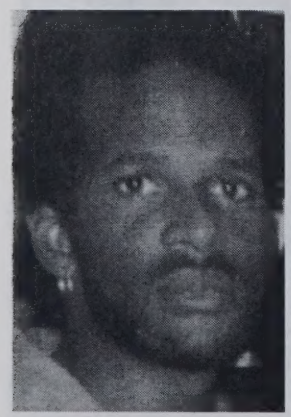
Same-gender-loving couple (Who comes up with these labels?), Mitchell 'Little Bit' Crawford and round-the-way boy turned actor, Raheim 'Pooquie' Rivers are back and this time 'round, they are challenged by a long distance romance, the prospect of cheating, and phone sex. The exploration of fidelity takes place in a two-week period when Pooquie takes a film role in Los Angeles. Left in New York, Little Bit, it seems, is running into temptation by hanging out with friends, going to the local supermarket, and trying on clothes at the department store. Hell, he even gets a little love from the father of one of his elementary students.

One of Hardy's strengths is his portrait of black gay life and white gay communities. Unlike African American author Randy Boyd, who peppers in white boy heroes in his tomes, JEH has firmly established that black *and* gay is beautiful. He takes real life and seemingly stitches it into his novels. For example, Mitchell's friends are all black, the couples are both black, they all share disdain about those brothers who date outside their race, and they attend a brotherhood that seeks to support same-gender-loving black men.

As in previous B-Boy entries, the dialogue is lightening fast. Having read LTOYW for a second time, I realized that Mitch and Raheim have matured, as most people do in real life, but Mitch's cohorts seem to have stagnated. Voices are indistinguishable in very drawn out narratives.

And, you may notice that JEH has a thing for lists. I don't know what it is, but the boy acts as if he's going to the damn grocery store! It's very distracting that once you get into the story, here comes this inexplicable list of what song is being played and who sings it. While I didn't think I was on *Soul Train,* I did think I could have done without the DJ roll call. Another problem with LTOYW is that I felt as if I were being preached at. JEH explores political and ethical topics, from bi-sexuals to racial profiling to 'snow queens' to gay discrimination. Don't get me wrong, important issues should be discussed in the black gay community, but if you are paying nearly twenty-five dollars for a book, you don't want to be sermonized to as if you were in church Sunday morning and expected to pass the collection plate.

As a reader, I was insulted by JEH's soapbox dissertations. After five novels, I thought he would have concentrated more on the characters and let them deal with all the issues he raises which are central to the survival of being black *and* gay. In fact, I would like to see him expand his repertoire. I would like to see the B-boy franchise close with Raheim dealing with his being in the closet. It's time already to open the door!



This novel receives Richard's Reading Room's rating of 2 and ½ books out of 5.

Richard Charlton Jones is a freelance writer who has edited and written for *SBC* and *Venus* magazines. He appears on the cover of *The Men's Room* by Micangelo Scruggs. He was a former senior staff writer for the *San Diego Voice & Viewpoint* African American newspaper. He doesn't have a problem with monogamy because he is seriously single! Richard may be contacted at houze bwai@aol.com. Currently, Richard is finishing his first book, TOO LONELY TOGETHER.

"Free your mind and the rest will follow..."

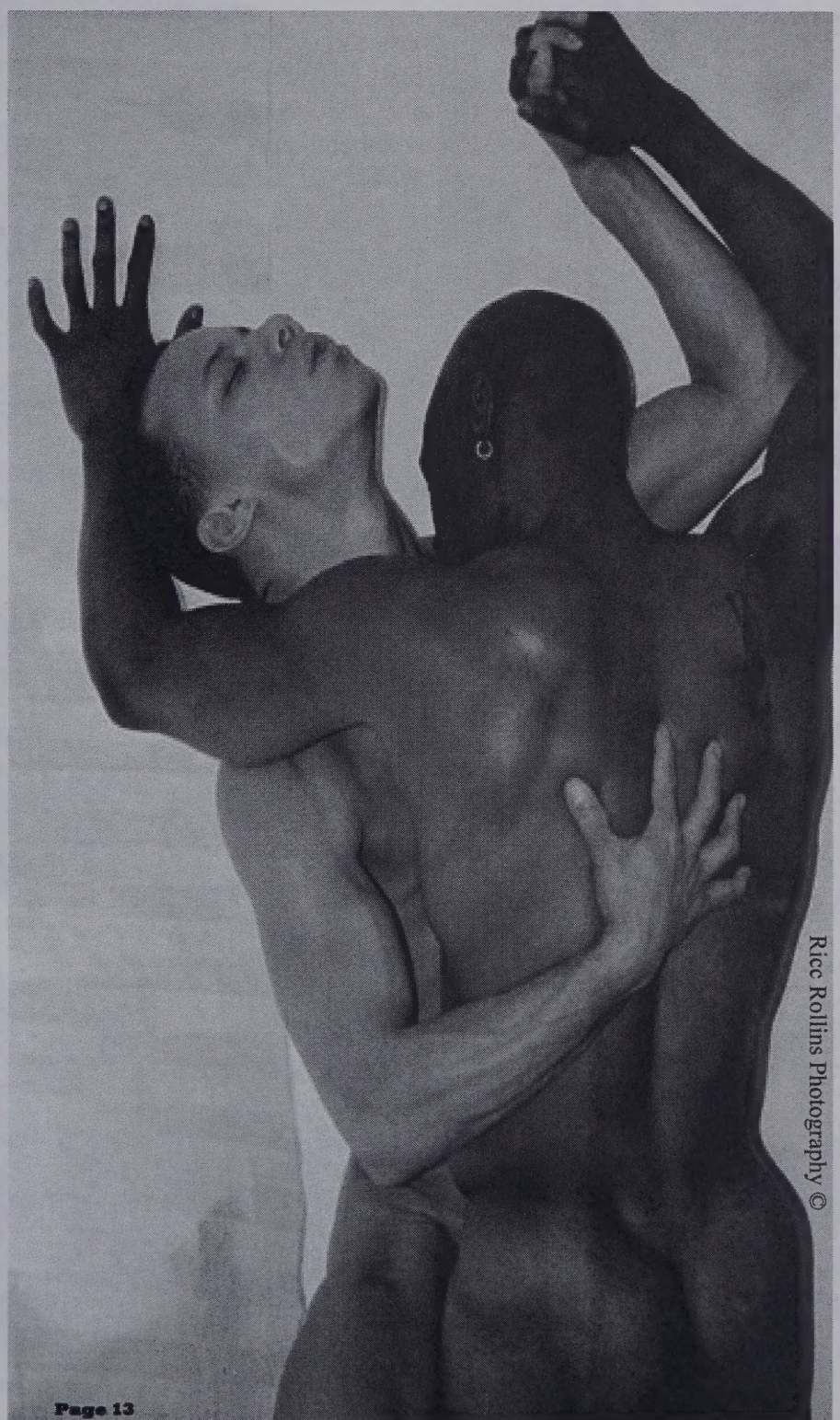
This section was developed to give our readers and volunteers a chance to honestly express themselves about any topic without judgment or ridicule.

AFTER THE FACT

TAKEN FROM THE COLLECTION, *THE HOT LIFE*, WWW.THEHOTLIFE.COM

"You don't have anything, do you?"
is what you said?
A little late 'cause we had just fucked in my bed.
We had tossed and turned and made a commotion
My ass was wet from cum and lotion
We had played a game of Show & Tell
Now my nose is filled with exotic fuck smells
Kissing my neck and biting my ear
Fucking so hard that I shed a tear
Now you out the mouth with that dumb ass question
I should say "yeah" to teach you a lesson
Tongues in mouths and fingers in asses
So much heat, got fog on my glasses
Your entire face in my ass and my head in your crotch
Cum swallowed down, so I turned it up a notch
You wasn't asking no questions when you came on my back
And you ain't say shit while you were licking my nut sack
You only opened your mouth to get the hair out of your teeth
Then you lowered your head and went back underneath
Nigga, what if I had AIDS or an STD?
Infected is what you'd be
Because you didn't ask before the act
Instead you waited after the fact.

KB!



Ricc Rollins Photography ©

INDWELLIN' & INTROSPECTIN'

A look inside Pandora's Box

by humbaba

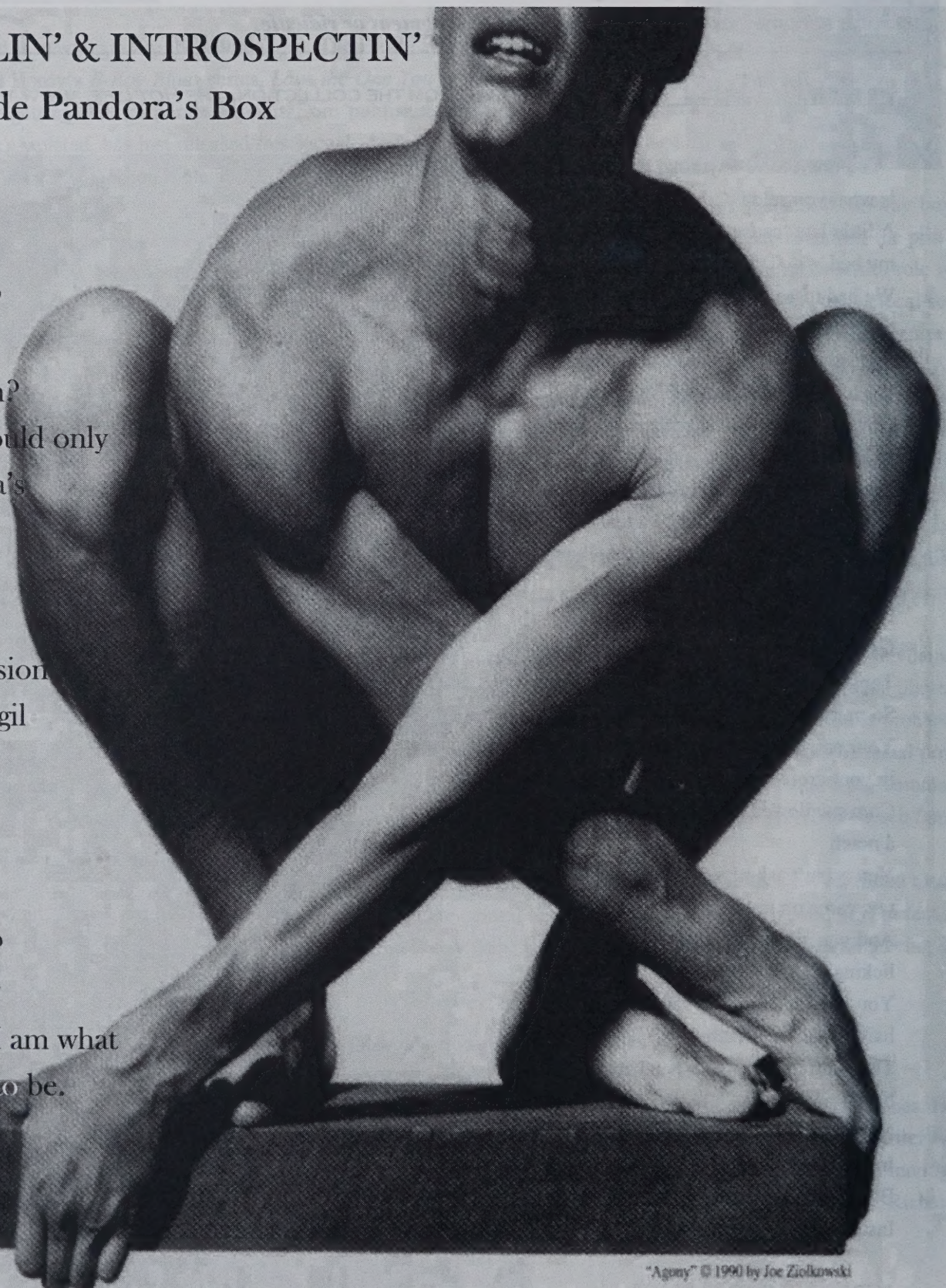
Who am I?
Ain't I a Man?

What is a Man?
To be Me Would only
Open Pandora's
Gilded Box,

Unleashing
Untold Confusion
Upon the Fragil
World Of My
Existence.

Who am I?
Ain't I a Man?
Can't you tell?
I am not me, I am what
they want me to be.

But what
am I? I am.
Ain't I.

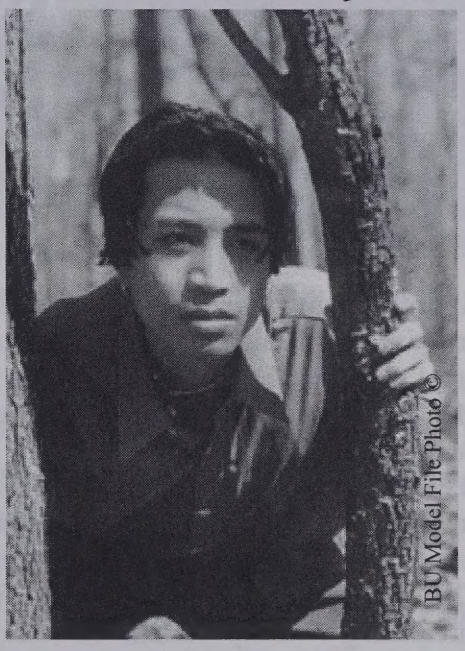


"Agony" © 1990 by Joe Ziolkowski

BU VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Brothers United has always been a volunteer driven group. Highlighting new and other faithful members is our way to say THANKS.

Name:	Patrick Keuanoudone
Began Volunteering:	March 2000
Participates in:	Men On Filmz, Winter Retreat
Volunteer Specialty:	Web Master

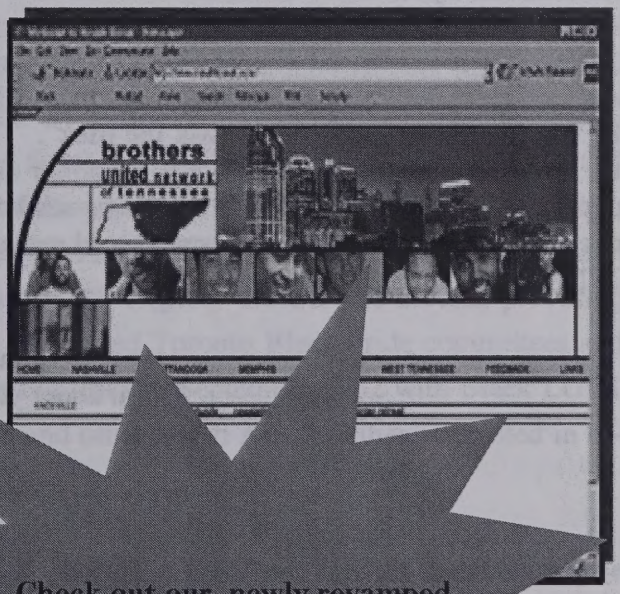


BU Model File Photo ©

A painter of Laotian descent, Patrick is an artist who has had a passion for art and design since he was very young. He is not only interested in the art field, but also has a passion in computer graphic design. As a designer, Patrick is working in graphic design with his concentration on print and web interactive design. He has designed websites for schools, organizations, and businesses. He is now working on his Master of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at the University of Memphis on a full scholarship. He plans to maintain our website while he makes us proud doing his thang. In the near future after he finishes with graduate school, Patrick wants to work for a design or publishing company or even teaching on a university level and work free-lancing in art and graphic design. He is often commissioned to create in oil and pastel; his work can be found in private collections throughout the Southeast. His portfolio in graphic and web interactive design can be viewed on the Internet @ http://www.imanigrp.com. Even though he has an African American partner, we are glad that Patrick is a part of BU and understands that all Gay Men of Color must come together to work for the greater good.

"Innocence", 2001, Oil on Canvas, 48x48 Inches, Oil on Canvas

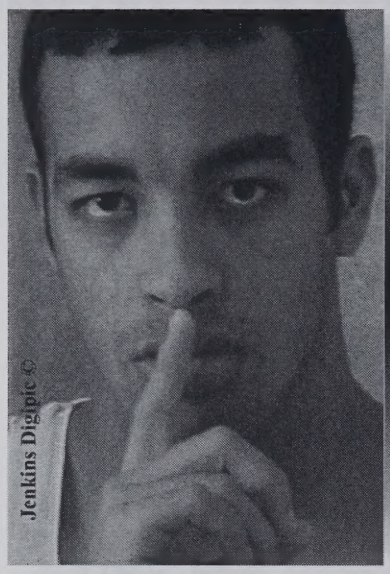
"Monica", 2001, 24x68 Inches, Acrylic on wood panel.



"Little girl holding a flower", 2000, 24x30 Inces, Mixed Media on Canvas.

"Souverign", 1999, 38x48 Inches, Mixed Media on wood panel.

Check out our newly revamped BU website at www.brothersunited.com



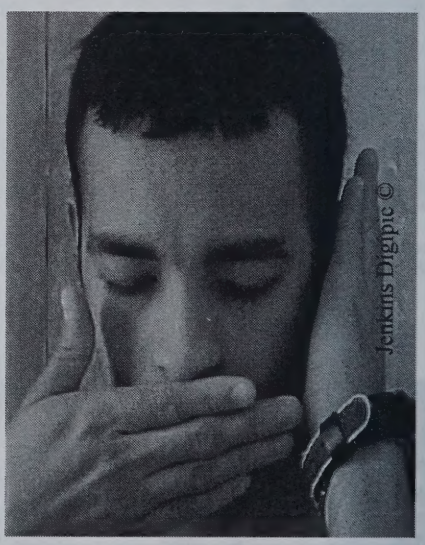
Victoria's Secret Rendezvous

Some folks just can't help but spill the tea...

I was so intrigued by my last visit to the library (adult bookstore), that I decided to try it again. Since I am no longer fresh meat, I decided to go alone for the dick hunt. I discovered the token booths were a good cruise for my money, five dollars for a buffet of prime dick and ass in a variety of flavors (chocolate, vanilla, Mexican, and Chinese). To my amazement I saw a steady stream of tricks, and the treats I received wet my appetite for more. So six months and countless tricks later, I just had to stop and share my observations.

After becoming a regular, I joined the fraternity/sorority of foundation queens, a.k.a. regular customers. I got to know some of the foundation queens as well as you can know someone who lies about their true identity. One thing that was obvious was that most play more games than Milton Bradley has massed produced "Monopoly". My favorite game was "Hide and Seek": where you hide the fact that you did ten tricks today while you seek more. There is also "Show and Tell": show me your dick so I may tell everyone what you're packin. Then there is the "Mousetrap", where you chase the trick through the maze of token booths until you trap them due to exhaustion and fatigue from your relentless pursuit. Mousetrap is funny because it's like observing a psychology experiment; sometimes you want to tell the participants, "give it up girl don't you see he doesn't want your ass". The most dangerous game is "I've Got A Secret". The secret could be a wife, husband, an addiction, a life threatening sexually transmitted disease, "STD". In this game you don't get any clues, only consequences that could threaten your life.

I asked one of the foundation queens, "Why so many games"? She said, "girl they think you don't see, but we see it all. We know who you did, and what you did, so your secrets are not safe". I asked, "girl how do you get the information", she said, "just ask the trick". The trick is usually glad to brag about their latest treats with all the gory details. Remember there is no honor among thieves, and no secrets among sluts. I think to myself, "this game stinks", but not with the bookstore smell of bleach mixed with sex, smoke and semen. But this game smells like DENIAL!



denial about your sexual identity
denial about your marital/relationship status
denial about your HIV status
denial about your promiscuity
denial about your self esteem and self acceptance

The worst case of denial I observe is "new children" fresh from the "closet" trying to find love in a token booth. Children, love doesn't exist in a token booth. The only thing you will get in a token booth is a trick and a nut, sometimes not even that! So to conclude this rendezvous with Victoria, Victoria has no secrets and neither do you at the library (adult bookstore). Your life is an open book that everyone can read, so make sure the material is something you can be proud of without regret or remorse. You may think of your cruise at the local library as a harmless game, but remember all games have consequences, and this game may be detrimental to your relationships and your life. May the truth set you free and light your path in darkness

Love *Victoria*

Black Federation of Prides ©

Community Corner...What's really going on?!

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BLACK PRIDES - LEADING THE BLACK PRIDE MOVEMENT

By Earl J. Folwes

There are probably few people in the Black LGBT community who are aware that there are almost thirty Black Prides in the United States, Canada and Africa. And there are even fewer people who are aware that there is an organization called the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP) that works with many of the Black Prides to provide support and technical assistance.

What is the IFBP? The IFBP is a coalition of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, and individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination. The IFBP was organized during DC Black Pride of May, 1999 by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis (Twin Cities), and Washington, DC. The organizers saw a need to organize the twenty plus Black Prides in the United States and abroad to network, develop sponsorship strategies, provide technical assistance, mentor and support one another.

In November 2000, the original seven cities plus LA at the Beach and Jacksonville formalized the International Federation of Black Prides and has adopted bylaws, elected officers and have started the process of incorporation and applying for IRS non profit status. In April, the IFBP extended invitations to the other remaining Black Prides as the organization prepared for its first Annual Meeting under the new bylaws. IFBP has produced the first ever brochure listing all of the 2001 Black Prides in the United States. In May 2002, the IFBP expanded its membership to include Baltimore, Boston, Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo, Philadelphia and South Africa. The IFBP can count a number of accomplishments in its short history. These include successfully mediating the two Chicago Black Prides situation; outreaching to potential new cities to start Black Prides for membership including Nashville, Jackson Mississippi, and Charlotte; developed a calendar of BP events which has been reproduced throughout the US and abroad; providing technical assistance to Kansas City, MO, St Louis, Baltimore, South Africa and Toronto Black Pride committees and will convene a meeting during South Africa's Black Pride in Johannesburg in late September 2002 with Black LGBT representatives from the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and other South African cities interested in organizing a Black Pride event.

Photo from left to right: *Board Members; Dyan McCray, Cassandra McFerson, Ronnie Foster, Mayor Tony Williams, Toni Collins, Earl Fowlkes, Special Assistant to the Mayor on LGBT Affairs, Wanda Austin*

In short, the IFBP works with members of the community to organize Black Pride events so that Blacks and African Americans, can come together to celebrate who we are, learn from our collective experiences, develop a sense of togetherness – and the parties are nice too!

The 4-1-1

Bowie State Frat Embraces Diversity with New Pledges

From *Gay Life*, a Maryland gay publication: http://www.bgp.org/May31st_html/breaking_news.html

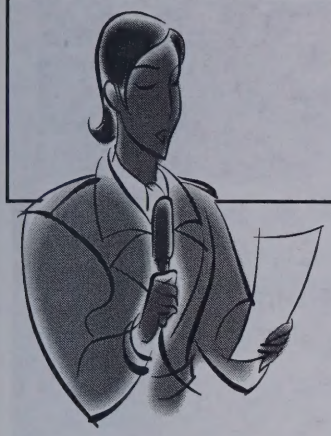
In an attempt to be inclusive and increase diversity within the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (OPPF,) the Second District of OPPF has placed ten brothers "on line" who are openly gay. Five of the line brothers are pledging chapters in Maryland, including Bowie State University. Two are pledging chapters in Delaware, and three are pledging chapters in Pennsylvania. The members range in age from age 20 to 55. The openly gay brothers stated that the pledging experience thus far has been free of any hazing and without any incidents of discrimination. When the ten line brothers were asked about what the most difficult obstacle in the pledging process has been, they each responded that learning and studying the rich history of the organization and maintaining their relationships with their partners were the largest obstacles. Six line brothers are currently in committed relationships; two line brothers have put off dating and looking for partners until after the pledging process is over; and two line brothers stated that they are divorcees with children and are searching for a committed relationship with another guy. Contact Bradley E. Heard for more info. (410) 462-670 or via e-mail at 5bheard@mindspring.com

Anti-Gay Attack Is Alleged at Howard University, by Amy Argetsinger, Washington Post Staff Writer

Howard University is investigating allegations that a gay student was beaten and taunted by several members of the school's marching band, officials said yesterday. Darryl Payton, 18, said he was attacked Tuesday night and was treated at the university's hospital for injuries that included a swollen jaw and bruises -- one with the imprint of a trumpet valve. A Howard instructor said he tried to be a peacemaker and was punched in the face even after he had identified himself as a staff member. "I was really surprised," said Luqman Salim, an instructor and technician in the theater program. "What they did was crazy." No one has been arrested. University spokeswoman J.J. Pryor confirmed that school officials are investigating the allegations for possible disciplinary action, but she said it would be "inappropriate" to discuss specifics. John E. Newson, director of Howard's bands, declined comment.

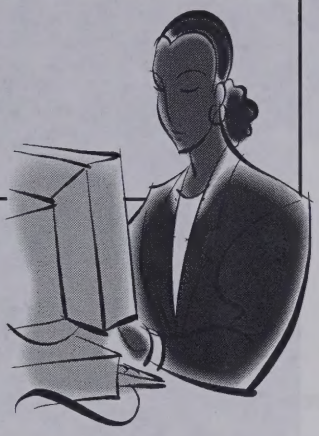
Payton, a sophomore from Los Angeles, said he was leaving the fine arts building about 8:45 p.m. Tuesday when he encountered several of the band's horn players practicing in the hallway. After he accidentally bumped into a female band member, Payton said, other band members started shouting "faggot" and other anti-homosexual slurs. As he tried to walk through, he said, a group crowded around him. Salim, a foreman in the theater's costume shop, said he happened on the scene as the group seemed to be closing in on Payton. "They were about to attack him," Salim said. "I said: 'Hey, I work here. What's the problem?' Instead of backing off, Payton and Salim said, some band members starting hitting them with fists and musical instruments. "We were up against a wall," Payton said. "We were bent over, and they were hitting our backs." Payton said the group that attacked him consisted mostly of male students.

Campus police officers went to the scene and took a report. Both Payton and Salim complained that officers did not make immediate arrests. But Salim said yesterday that he has met with administrators and that it appears the school is taking the matter seriously. Although D.C. police reserve the right to investigate possible crimes on campuses, they often defer to campus officials, who are able to use punishments such as suspension or expulsion to deal with infractions that might not be suited to criminal prosecution. Howard's student-conduct code does not specifically prohibit "hate speech," as do the rules on some campuses. It does prohibit expressions of discrimination, assault and battery. A campus judicial board can impose penalties ranging from a warning to expulsion. Sterling Washington, president of an organization for gay and bisexual students at Howard, said that gay students have been harassed occasionally but that "acts of violence are out of character." Salim said he hopes to see his attackers punished, possibly suspended. "With attitudes like that, they have no place here," he said. "If I had waited 10 more minutes, that child might have been dead."



The K & K Commentary

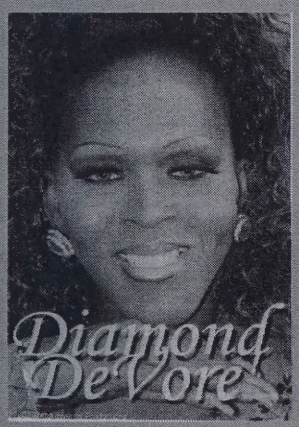
"From a Woman 2 Woman Perspective"



Well the year has come and almost gone, but we must say, we have had one heck of a time communicating with you all. The fall semester has begun and we know that many of you are quite busy (just as we are), yet for others this hectic schedule is year round so this isn't anything new!

We would like to give a shout out to Nashville for giving us new and exciting clubs to attend. Although these establishments are not majority Black, they are diverse. Therefore, it is up to us to make the best of them. So go out, have fun, get drunk, have SEX (protected please!), and live life to the fullest! One LUV, K&K

P.S.The New clubs are as follows: The Lipstick Lounge on 14th & Woodland in East Nashville, **THE TRIBE** on 16th & Church Street, and Jaded Mary's on 17th & Church Street.

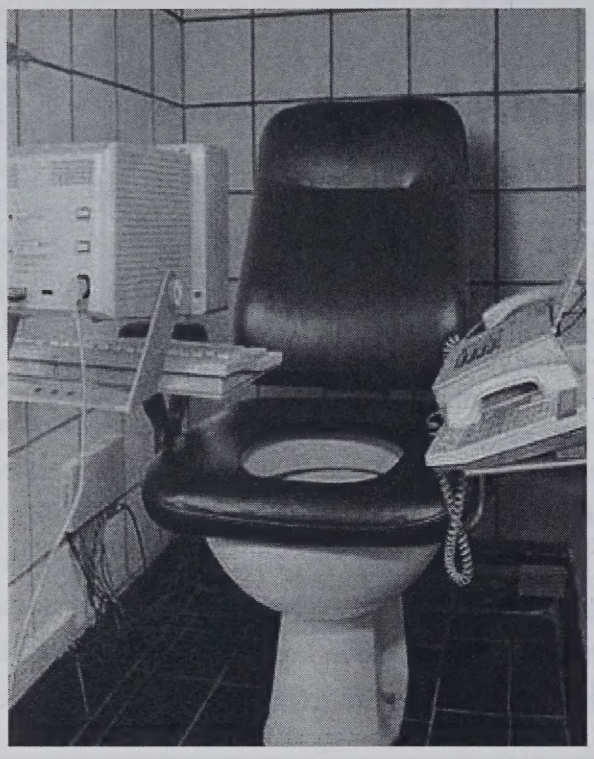


Diamond's Tranz Central Station

Welcome aboard our world...

Well as our summer comes to an end, let me recap some of my favorite events of the season. Nashville along with Kentucky had some great pageants this year. My two favorites in the city were the Miss Tennessee Continental's. My over all favorite was the Miss Hysteria Pageant held at the club Outer Limit on Nolensville Road. Major points should be given to the Outer Limit and the hostess Racquel Scott for going all out for the chil-ren. For those that don't know, the Outer Limit was an excellent place to go on Tuesday nights in Nashville . Sadly, rumor has it that they are discontinuing their Alternative Nights. The Atlanta Girls came here and cleaned house with the crown and the $1,000 prize going to the beautiful Racquel Lord. In Kentucky, the National Entertainer of the Year Pageant was also a spectacular event. Nicole Luv Dupree captured that title. Black Gay Pride was extremely great in my home town of Detroit, but from what I hear the other cities were off the hook as well. We're waiting on Nashville to hurry up and get with the program. Must we always be not one, but two steps behind on everything? We have a huge Black Gay population and now have a Black club that the kids can hang out in, why not a Black Gay Pride?

We will definitely keep you posted on this and other comments from the streets. Even though we've had a wonderful year together, as it gets cold and we roll into a new year, let's remember those members within our community that we have lost. Keep in mind that your life is precious and that you are blessed. In closing, my words going into the new year are; GROW UP AND STOP THE SHADE!!



"From Where I Sit"

Dwayne Jenkins

Don't you just love my new office? It is truly befitting of my working environment this past year. A massive amount of computer work, plenty of faxes, thousands of copies, and a bowl load of stinky shit! If only my real seat at the office was covered with that comfortable leather as seen in the photo.

It has been an interesting year so far. I know we have a few months to go, depending on when you read this, but for the most part the year 2002 has been a real eye opener for both the Brothers United program at Nashville CARES and the entire BU Network of Tennessee. For years before we became this award winning, nationally recognized entity, many people in and out of the HIV/AIDS arena would ask me, "Why aren't you doing this for yourself?" I'd hear, "child, you need to have your own 501c3 a/o have your own business separate from anyone". I generally answered them all with the same statement by saying *oh we're not ready yet.* Since I had already trademarked our images, chartered and incorporated the BU Network, and opened a business bank account for our statewide organization I thought things were moving along at a good pace. After a very interactive business meeting during last years Winter Retreat, I was charged by the group to file the necessary paperwork before we gather again in 2002. Have I done it yet? No. Why not? Well, I am honestly tired of hearing lip from service from "us" and still getting the same tired results. It's funny; attendance is always great at our socials and non-educational events, but when you try and get some brothas together to read a book, have a simple rap session, or meet to discuss organizational business, you're left in an empty room. The new numbers released by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), though not surprising, has still made me look within and ask, has all our work been in vain? Why are so many African American Men who have Sex with Men (AAMSM), both young and old, *still* getting infected with HIV at such an alarming rate? Is it simply because we're fucking folks without a condoms? Hhmm, don't brothas know the risks in doing that? I mean it's almost 2003, and we're 20+ years into the AIDS epidemic. As one of many other Black Gay Men that coordinate similar projects that are funded through the CDC to help prevent the spread within our community, I think it is safe to say, "*brothers you gotta wake the hell up!"* We have tried every damn scientifically based theory, and trick in the book to get you involved and to buy into your own health and life responsibilities. Tell us, what- if anything, can we possibly do different to really make a difference?

Understanding that there is not just one thing that will help, I offer this statement. *In honor to those that have passed, those that are infected and those that will be, we've just got to press forward in our fight against HIV/AIDS and the ignorance and stigma it has attached to it.* Our statewide theme this year is "The Power of One". As corny as it sounds, if our efforts have helped that one somebody make the proper choice in terms of HIV infection or has empowered them to love themselves for whom they are, then we've accomplished something. Will having a separate Black Gay owned and operated organization help? Maybe. Will more AAMSM's participate and volunteer their time, services and donate finances to keep us open? Maybe. Will I file those 501c3 papers I mentioned earlier before the December Retreat? Yes, because from where I sit, it may be that thing that helps our Same Gender Loving communities in Tennessee take us seriously.

Soul Food Seasonings

Tasty servings to elevate your mind & spirit.

"Bearing Witness to the Darkness"

by Conrad Pegues

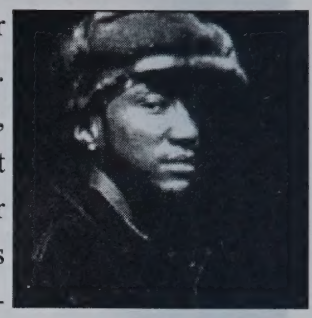
"Don't let the darkness in," a young woman wrote me in an email about the essay I'd written, "Why'd you do...that?" I got some public responses to the essay, most people wouldn't touch it, but it was the private responses that caught my attention, people not wanting to talk about the matter of unprotected sex publicly. I stepped on a lot of toes telling my truth. The darkness had invaded me like the HIV virus and is made of loneliness and isolation and fear. It'll consume you until you can neither reason nor rely on the memory of friends who've wasted away before your very eyes. You're uncertain what love is. Community is the only cure to the spread of the disease. The darkness is one where you live in a small world defined by the secret of your sexuality, even when you're so called out. So many of us are cut off from our home communities with no hope of them really experiencing us for the full human beings that we are. Many of us struggle with the baggage we carry: Mama didn't love me, Papa didn't know how to love me, brother beat me for being me, and sister disowned me. If you had to fight just to survive, but was never taught what it meant to love yourself, all you know is the darkness and that becomes your best sense of what life means.

To blindly step out into the street is the same death wish as being sexually irresponsible. It's hard when you don't know where the people are to help you recognize love and loving relationships. When you know what it looks like, you have a point of reference to hold on to. If you've known more hurt and rejection than love like me you begin to see the world through your wound. You're pushed back to primal instincts wanting any type of human touch, even if you have to put your life and sanity on the line to get it. You have no sense of self. I'm not talking poor self-esteem. I'm talking about feeling like you've got no right to be here! There's an African proverb that says, "I am because We are. We are because I am." Everybody needs a place to be themselves without the shadows of rejection whittling away at their ability to give or receive love. To counter the rising numbers for HIV transmissions, it's going to take life skills training in love. The black community is no stranger to countering what hurts us. Look at the Colored Women's leagues, Malcolm and Martin, Ida B. Wells, all champions to counter the march of darkness in our communities. People need to be taught how to support one another through crisis and how to network with one another to get the things we need out of life, counseling programs to help them face the emotional darkness inside of them. As a friend who has AIDS told me once, "I was ready to die until you told me I was needed." That was six years ago. I'm glad to report he's still alive. Now I have to learn to tell myself the same and believe it. Banish the darkness.

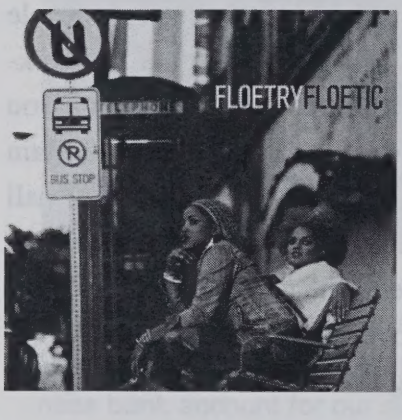
I realize my own responsibility in wanting to live, but I also recognize the larger need for a community that wants me here and loves me. Don't let the darkness in and if it's already in see about exorcising it. Tell somebody until you get an answer worth living for. That goes for all of us. Within us all is the means to put a stop to the rising numbers of HIV infections. A prophet said: "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?" There is a Balm in Gilead in arresting HIV in our communities. Can I get some love?

Ewe, That's My Song...

By Keith Chandler



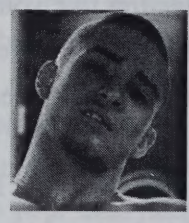
Well, folks I don't know about you, but for me the summer has been very slow musically. However, I did find one CD (on the internet, of course) that perked me up for a bit. That was Q-Tip's "Kamaal the Abstract". Never released in the US, "Kamaal the Abstract" is Q-Tip's bid to try to stretch the collective imagination of the hip-hop genre. Live instrumentation, singing, and weird subjects (high heels) make this CD a delight for those just slightly left of center (like the writer). My favorite cuts include "Heels" and "Abstractionism". One listen and you will know immediately why it will probably never see the light of day in commercial rap music.

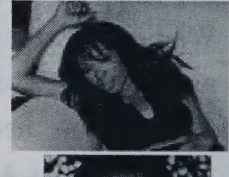


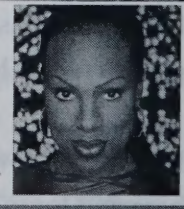
Another CD that I'm getting into is the debut from Floetry. Floetry is a British duo (by way of Philly, I believe) whose music sounds a little like Queen Latifah mixed with Jill Scott. You have probably seen their video "Floetic" on MTV or heard the song on your radio stations... No matter how much I try to dismiss the Yin Yang Twins as absolute crap, they come with a tune that sticks in my head. I have to catch myself as I'm singing the explicit refrain to "Smoke By Myself" in public. LOOOOOOOVE both new Lil Kim tracks, "Gone Delirious" and "Rockin It". I'm still not sure I understand the point of Trina's new one "No Panties" and WHAT the hell is that song with Ludacris' "Be Alright"? Why does she continue to take Lil Kim's stock-in-trade?

Yes, I did see the VMAs...And I do think Michael J. took the top of the cake and thought it was an award! Oooops... Anyhow, in other awards talk, I fully support that California kid's petition against Ashanti receiving the Entertainer of the Year Award. Soul Train once again proves why it needs to pull into the station-FOR GOOD. Anyone who caught Ashanti's performance on the MTV awards knows that she deserves nothing but great videos. Back to MTV-loved me some Shakira (I WANT her belly-dancing abilities NOW dammit!), Justin Timberlake, and Brandy's dress...But, overall, a snooze fest.

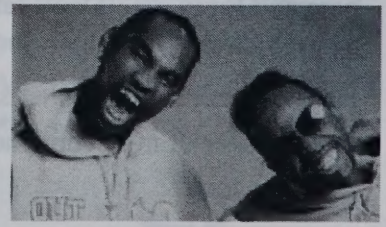
OOOOOH, that's my song....







1. **Like I Love You**-Justin meets the Neptune's and does Michael Jackson. The Clips keep it funky and I'm dancin'...
2. **Dirrrty**-Christina Aguilera-Yes, it should be called "Let's Get Dirty" (The Aguilera Remix) but Rockwilder provides funkier beats than he ever provided for Ms. Jackson and Ms. Aguilera still has the chops to be this generation's Teena Marie.
3. **He Is**-Brandy-Not thrilled about Robert Smith, but one day I was driving and got to thinking about my special someone and this song was on the radio. That did it!
4. **I'm Not Really Lookin'**-Truth Hurts-Certainly no "Addictive" and will contribute to the further erosion of Truth's 15 minutes of fame, but a cute ditty nonetheless.
5. **Smoke By Myself**-Yin Yang Twins-Great at the gym, great when you're mad, great when you just want to hear something funky. Also sounds like a black college marching song...



Michael-Christopher / DC Pride Guide '96 ©

Jenkins Digipic ©

Naya's Corner:

The eyes & ears of reason...

The views expressed are solely those of Ms. Naya and do not reflect that of Nashville CARES or Brothers United. This section is provided for empowerment and entertainment purposes only. Letters & e-mails are strongly encouraged. All the responses are Real! If you don't agree with hah', respond again...she lives for it!

Dear Naya: I have been to a lot of PRIDE Festivals in my day. At first I found them to be such a source of "Gay Energy" that I would feel like I was floating for weeks after the event. Lately, I don't feel the same way and was wondering if I were the only one seeing what has begun to occur. I use to have a problem understanding why the larger cities would have two separate PRIDES for the general population of gays & lesbians, and then a Black PRIDE. After I went to my first one in Hotlanta, I truly understood. Being around thousands upon thousands Gay Black folk is definitely a wonderful thing. I didn't realize it before, having enjoyed the others that were integrated, but seeing all of your people can be inspirational. I guess this is why I'm writing this to you. When I go to places like Washington DC, Houston SPLASH and others all I see now is skin, parties, and sex. Now don't get me wrong, I have had a cutie or two in my day to help celebrate the weekend, but enough is enough! I know flesh sells, but all these sex parties and such. Brothas & sistas are getting down, and yes I mean on their knees. Activities like book signings and other non-sexual cultural events are few and far between. I've been lucky, never getting an STD from my past activities, but some of my friends haven't. What kills me is that they don't even understand how they got infected or how it came to be. A few months ago, one of my friends had the nerve to say, " I just slept with 5 guys over the weekend. Why'd this have to happen to me?" I was like, "ain't this some shit?" Half of these folks aren't even from the host city. I may have to update you after I go to Atlanta this coming Labor Day, but right now, the way I feel, this one may be my last. PRIDE, is it for real?

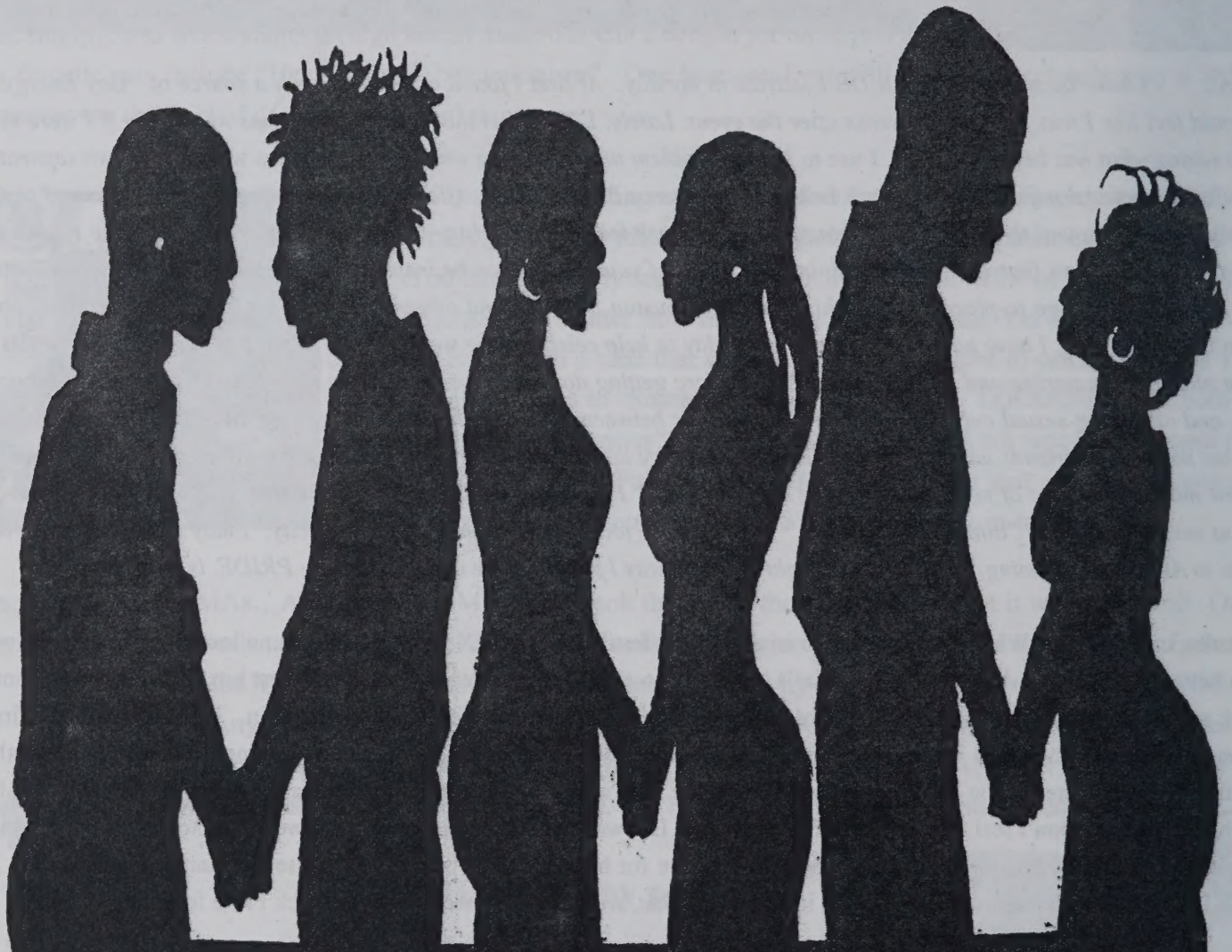
Dear Reader, can we talk? What you are going to is not a pride festival, it's a SEX Festival. People no longer go to see how we can be a better people, as a whole, but to see what's hot, what so-and-so had on, who's got the biggest box, fattest ass and compare fuck stories. That is not what Pride is suppose to be about, but these are the times we are living in. Think about it, the first time you went and came back to talk to your friends about your experience, were the first things out of your mouth, "Damn the seminars were off the hook!" or was it "Damn the men were off the mutha fuckin' chain!" (Now be honest.) Yeah, that's what I thought. Don't feel too bad, we have all done it. But we have to keep in mind why we are all together.-not licking and lapping, sucking and fucking. We are suppose to be there for homosexual, bisexual and try sexual unity. Come on say it with me...UNITY!!! If we had that, or better yet if we can get that, we would not need separate Black Pride festivals.

Now as for your friend, I must get huh right on together! Gurl, where ever you are...what rock did you crawl out from under? The guestion isn't how did this happen to be, but I'm surprised it didn't happen sooner! You don't know these people from Adam. You don't know their background, culture, or health status. Hell, I bet they don't even give their real names! God knows I wouldn't if I was going to be a ho. All I'm saying is THINK before you speak, look before you leap and cover before you creep! Otherwise, someone's going to give you a "gift" you can't return.

Hey Babies, I just wanted to spread a little season greeting to all. I love U all and keep each & everyone of you in my prayers. You know, people often ask me where do I get my inspiration for my responses. Well, I get it from my own experiences, my sisters experiences and mostly God's gift of common sense. In the future, if you read something or are inspired to reply to anything I've written, please feel free to e-mail me at brosunited@aol.com and put "Attention: Naya" in the heading. I hope all of you use your past experiences and common sense this holiday season.

Until January 2003, take care of yourselves & each other. Naya Waters

No matter who you spend your holidays with this season...



Love Responsibly!

It is going to take all of us to stop homophobia, heterosexism, bigotry & HIV/AIDS

UNITEES 2002

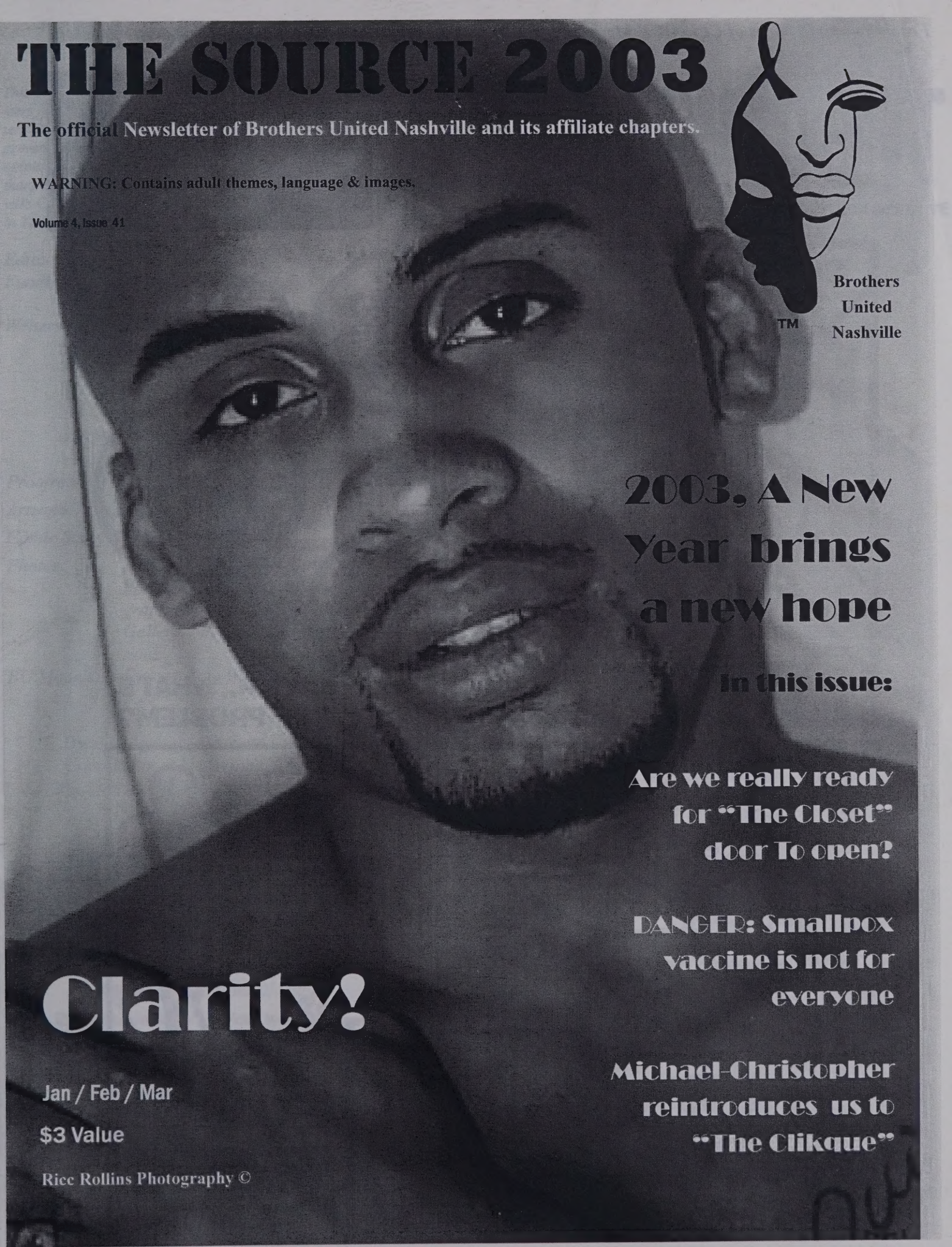
THE SOURCE 2003

The official Newsletter of Brothers United Nashville and its affiliate chapters.

WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images.

Volume 4, Issue 41

Brothers United Nashville™



2003, A New Year brings a new hope

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Are we really ready for "The Closet" door To open?

DANGER: Smallpox vaccine is not for everyone

Michael-Christopher reintroduces us to "The Clikque"

Clarity!

Jan / Feb / Mar

$3 Value

Ricc Rollins Photography ©

From the retired pages of CLIKQUE Magazine, Brothers United, in cooperation with Dwight Powell, presents:

THE CLIKQUE

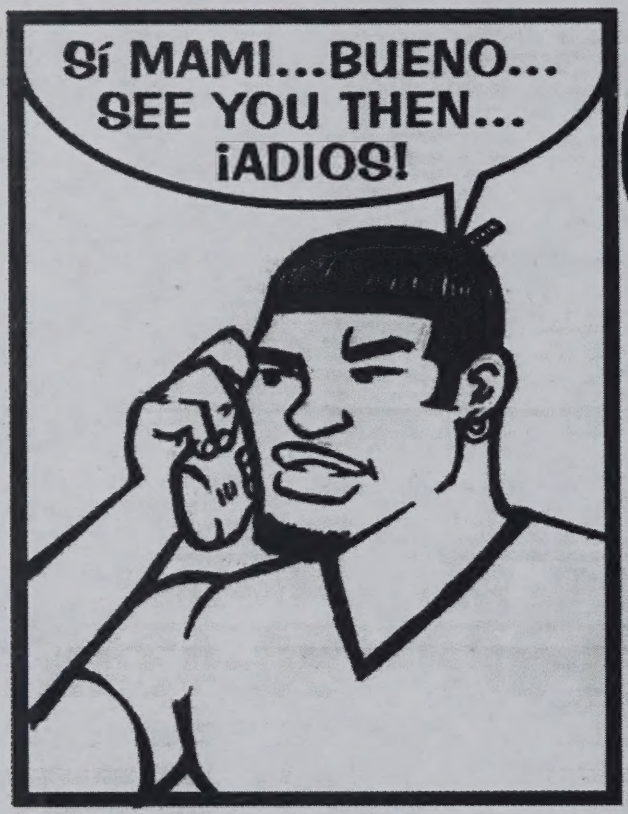
BY MICHAEL- CHRISTOPHER © 1999 /2003

Meet "The Clikque"

Xavier: A gay male, Hispanic, clubby type.

Regina: A Lesbian, African American, earthy.

Victoria: Transgender African American female, big, tall & full of gags.



THE SOURCE

This newsletter is published quarterly for all the volunteers of the Brothers United Network of Tennessee chapters and other regional affiliates that provide HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and education. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by BU or Nashville CARES. Names and pictures of persons appearing in THE SOURCE are no indication of sexual orientation.

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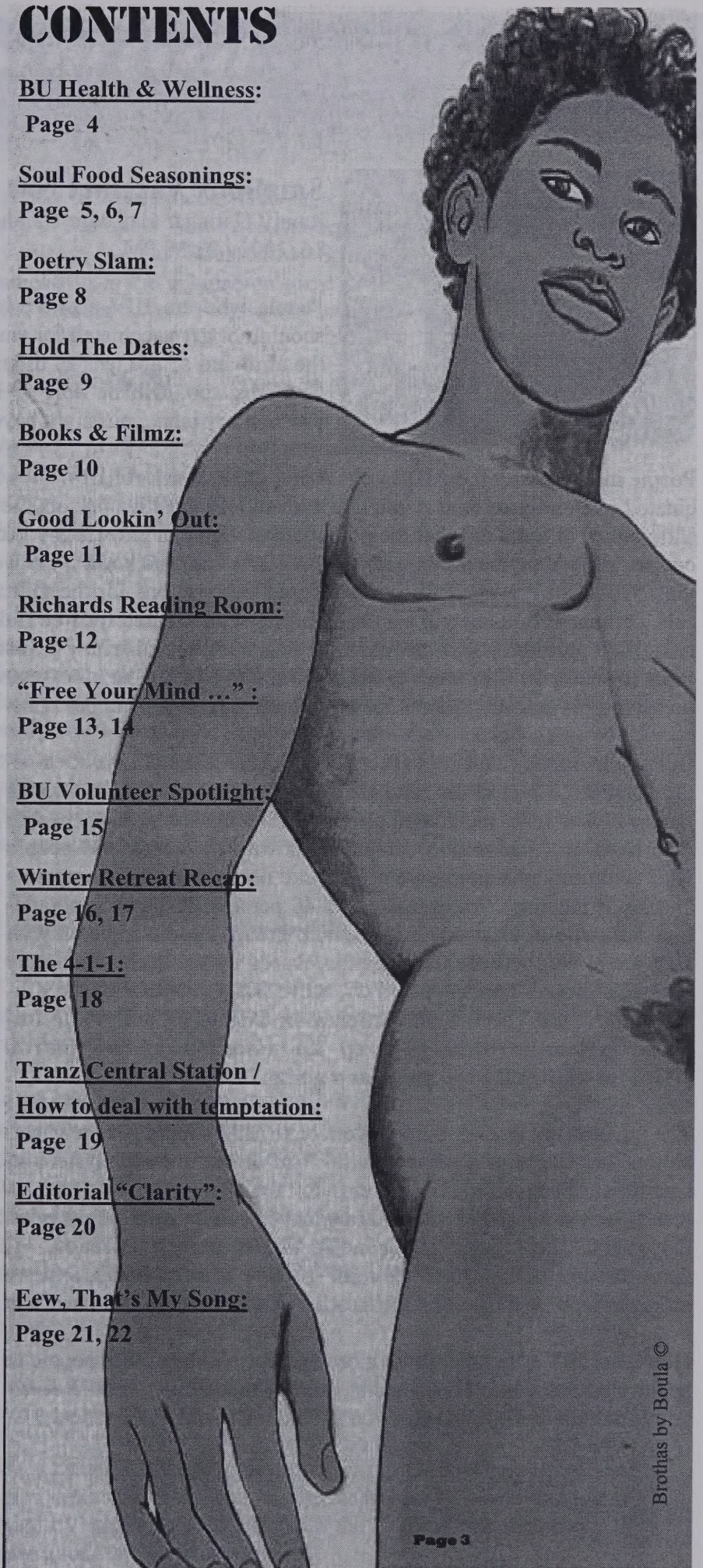
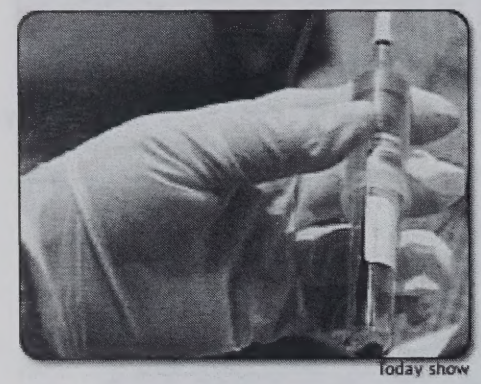


Brothas by Boula ©

BU HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Providing info that covers topics concerning the anal, oral and genital hygiene & maintenance of Gay Men.



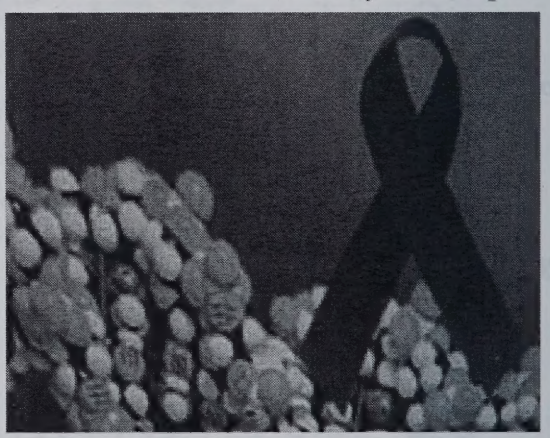
Smallpox Vaccine: Not for HIV patients

Randy Dotinga, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network , Monday, December 16, 2002 / 03:38 PM

People who are HIV-positive or who live with an HIV-positive person should not get vaccinated for smallpox. President Bush is getting a shot in the arm, and so are tens of thousands of soldiers and emergency workers. Civilians, too, will be able to line up for the smallpox vaccine. But if you're a gay man, you might have special reasons to not join this club.

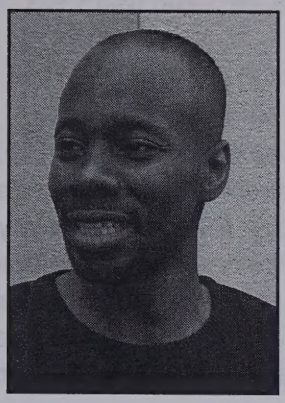
People infected with the AIDS virus -- and those at risk for HIV but who haven't been tested -- shouldn't get vaccinated for smallpox. And if you live with an HIV-positive person, the government doesn't want you to get a shot, either. It turns out that the potentially dangerous virus in the vaccine itself is contagious. At this point, of course, there is no smallpox outbreak. As far as anyone knows, the world hasn't seen a case of the disease since the 1970s. But President Bush has ordered vaccinations for the military, emergency medical workers and himself. Ordinary civilians will also be able to get vaccinated for free if they wish. Smallpox vaccinations bring big risks. The problem is that people must become infected with a full-strength strain of another disease -- a sister virus to smallpox -- in order to become immune. In almost all cases, vaccinated people will recover with few or no symptoms and end up with the trademark scar on their upper arms.

But not everybody will be so lucky. If all Americans got the vaccine, an estimated 1-2 out of every million people vaccinated would die, and many more would get sick. Groups facing higher risks include small children, pregnant women, people who have ever had a skin condition known as eczema, and people who take immunosuppressive drugs (like organ transplant recipients and lupus patients). An estimated 20-40 percent of the U.S. population falls into at least one vaccine risk group. People infected with HIV are at risk because the infection caused by the vaccination may rampage through the body, said Dr. Steve Black, director of the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center in Oakland, Calif. **"The immune system is there to keep the infection under control. (Without it), it will keep going and going."**



The government doesn't think anyone with HIV should get the vaccination, regardless of a person's viral load or the immune system strength. But what if there is an outbreak of smallpox? What would HIV patients do
then if they might be exposed? Frank Myers, an epidemiologist with Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, said they could take a quick-acting medication to prevent infection. "This protection is short-lived but would get them through an exposure," he said. If there is an outbreak, experts said, HIV patients are probably not much more susceptible to smallpox than other people because the disease is already extremely contagious.

However, HIV patients will be more susceptible than other people to infection by smallpox's sister virus from a healthy person who's been vaccinated. For that reason, "if there's an immune-suppressed person in your house, you shouldn't be vaccinated or you should move out," Black said.



Soul Food Seasonings

Tasty servings to elevate your mind & spirit.

We are proud to acknowledge that an essay written by our brotha', "Dilworth", of Memphis Tennessee has been accepted for the upcoming anthology release entitled "Souls of My Brothers" by Candace Sandy & Dawn Daniels. It is the companion piece to the "Souls of My Sisters" book. After reading it, you'll know why it was...

THE FINAL SAY

by Anthony Dilworth

You did not say my way would be easy, you did not say that it would be
But if it got dark and I couldn't find my way
You told me to put my trust in thee
That's why I am begging you
Lord, help me to hold out until my change has come
- James Cleveland.

My life had been pressing, pushing, swaying me to and fro for what seemed like forever. I was at a retreat in the foothills of Tennessee where seventy-three same gender loving, two-spirited men of color had gathered to play, to reflect on the journey and share their personal histories as well as construct a viable and productive community. To love one another in a much more intimate manner we had come together with a purpose. They were men of vastly different backgrounds and pedigrees: Ministers and Preacher's sons, medical doctors and recovering drug addicts, young men trying to find their way and old men who had lost their way. The doubtful. The jaded. The cynical. We had gathered together for a four-day respite from the things that trouble us.

I don't know if it was the flock of mallards gliding across the lake, their heads held high in silent homage to their Creator. It could have been the seven fawns trekking across the footbridge on their Sunday morning stroll. I watched as they observed us, strange two-legged creatures called humans. I wondered if they considered humans armed and dangerous. All of it made me, a thirty-eight year old same gender loving man living with AIDS, reflect on my life.

I am the good son, the responsible one ever ready to assist Momma or some distant relative with a pending bill. I am the outcast one forever obligated to love a people who are incapable of loving me back. I am the strangest of strangers. I am the good worker, first to arrive, the last to leave. I am the one some women down South call a "good Judy" who they can call at midnight because their man is in a world of trouble. I am the one who gets the rubbing alcohol for that black eye or that bruised back. I am the one who comforts you. I am the loving Father who wonders in the troubled recesses of my mind if my love will be sufficient. Will my daughter still say "Daddy, I love you" or will I become just another faggot mocked by society and cursed by God. I wonder as I wander.

God and Love have eluded me like a greased pig at a county rodeo. I believe in Love but love is fickle, some timey, tends to arrive late and leave early. I believe strongly in the Creator yet sometimes I wonder quite audibly if he believes in me. I have begged, cajoled and even bartered my life trying to gain His attention. I have searched the scriptures, meditated to Jesus Christ, Allah, Buddha and any god who would listen. I have read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I have a collection from Iyanla Vanzant, to T. D. Jakes, to the Harlem Renaissance writers to James Baldwin and the Dalai Lama. No peace anywhere!

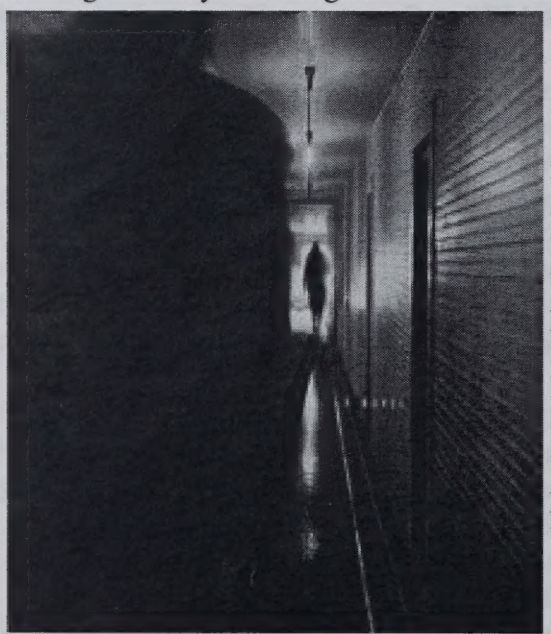
"The Final Say", by Anthony Dilworth– continued from page # 5:

My relationship with God is a tempestuous one. We have a family history. It was Easter Sunday 1992, and the first time that I didn't buy anything new to wear. In fact I wore black: Black shoes, black socks, black slacks and a black Giorgio Armani jacket I had found at the local goodwill. The Perry Ellis shirt was royal blue. I guess you could say I was black and blue. (Now that time and distance has allowed me to recover, maybe I can explain an irrational situation rationally). Maybe… AIDS had come calling like a long lost relative who had overstayed its welcome. It was not going home today, tomorrow, or forever. It had been twenty four seven. When I mustered up the nerve to have sex, the gospel station was on high. A lot of death was riding me.

Michael died in August, Mae on Mother's Day. Mae's mother died on Mae's birthday. There was Roy, Eddie, and Michelle. Dominique and LaToya, real girls with children. Byron was sick but Bryan was sicker. Marcus lay dying and I had tested positive. I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown in the middle of one of the pre-eminent African-American congregations in Memphis, Tennessee. I had a slow-building quiet rage. Yet, when someone says to you "How are you feeling this morning?" and you reply gleefully "Oh, I am fine," when you know good and damn well that all is not well. My teeth gritted until I drew blood. My fists clenched and held fast to the blood red velvet and mahogany church pew. I could not stand or sit. My legs had failed me and my arms were numb. I was all cried out, my strength was gone.

The female minister dripped venom with a fiery baptized tongue. I observed my closeted brothers in the balcony who were totally uncomfortable dressed in Kenneth Cole and Armani suits like they were coats of Armour; the rich ones on the Trustee Board perched precariously on the edge of their seats; the silent ones; the pedigreed ones. I saw my sister friends safe and miserable in the arms of a husband they neither wanted nor desired. I witnessed the down-low brothers with their wives and girlfriends on the left and their male "cousins" on the right. There were some fat ones, the ones some call ugly, and the not so handsome ones who were secretly thanking God that the pretty boys died first. I tried to block out the rousing amen chorus. It looked like the swelling tide of a lynch mob. There I sat, Anthony, the sideshow, the queer, the punk, the fag, the hated one and the reviled one. I was at once defiant and unrepentant. I was literally dying from an overdose of religion.

I collected myself with all the fortitude that God had given me. I remembered that I was also Clara's boy, Ms. Zula's grandbaby and the grandson of a noted hometown theologian. I considered Anthony, the true southerner, the fun-lover, the adventure seeker. I recollected apple orchards, pecan pickings, reading about Vashti and Esther, quilt making and hog killings. I sobbed over Anthony the little colored boy with the big mind; the confident teenager with the strange fast paced walk and his grandmother's singing voice screaming to be heard. I have always been in a hurry. I also paused to reflect on all of the times I sought solace in the fatal clutches of strangers and would-be assassins who took VCRs, televisions, telephones and penny jars. I missed the small things, some valuable, some not so valuable, that were mine just the same. Stolen!



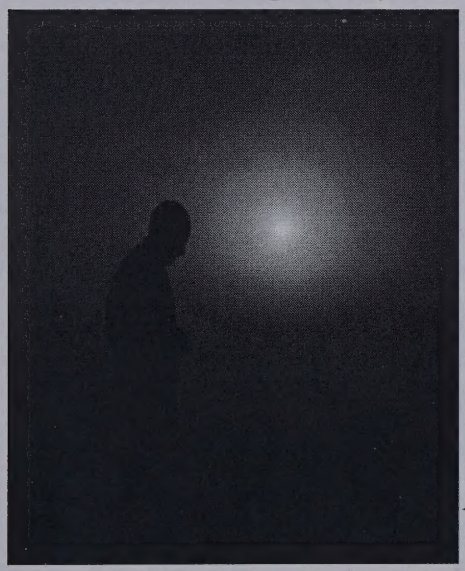
"The Final Say", by Anthony Dilworth: continued from page # 6:

My body was wracked with the not so distant memories of all the times I had sabotaged my dreams, the missed opportunities, the special occasions without an invite. I had a long conversation with the disease ravaging my body with a precision previously not witnessed by the living. I explained to the virus on a daily basis that since we both want to live we are going to have to peacefully co-exist; so far AIDS has not gotten with the program on a consistent basis. I marveled at the fact that I had participated in my own neat crucifixion. I stood for the benediction or the verdict depending on how you look at the situation. Being me was a felonious offense punishable by death and eternal damnation, no chance of heaven, no communion with God or so they thought. No one knew what I was feeling or thinking except God and me.

God finally showed up late as usual but right on time. This time he was dressed to kill and to my great surprise Love was with him. At Easter time Memphis is awash with the scent of honeysuckle, azaleas, lilies and just about any kind of colorful plant. It is a beautiful sight. I was riding with my friend Sandy who took his rightful place in the stressful traffic while I considered how to end my life: Suicide was too public; Valium or Percocet too risky and jail time if you weren't successful; Johnny Walker Red was out since my biological father was a mean drunk and I didn't want to be like him. In Sandy's mad dash in traffic, I bumped my head against the window. "Damn," I screamed. "Watch what the hell you are doing." He looked at me as if to say, I can't wait to get your crazy ass home. I mellowed, the ride home long. I saw a reflection of myself in the window seemingly for the first time.

The Spirit whispered to me:

I alone am God. I laid the foundations of the universe and placed the stars in the heaven one by one. I even named them. I got lonely so I created you and others like you. The good and the bad, the rich



and the poor, the Black, the White, the Jew and the Gentile, the Cherokee, The Navajo, the faceless and the famous--all of you are temporary tenants on a tiny little part of the firmament aptly named Earth. You are needed. You are necessary. You are loved. You are a part of me created in my image. Did you really think God could be contained within four walls no matter how grand and tall the edifice? I am the living God. Consider the rose, all glorious with the thorns in her side, the lilies of the field and the tiny mischievous dandelion. The dogwood tree, her growth stunted by a sorrowful journey up Calvary's Hill. The Oak proud and strong her branches carrying the memories of a million black men hanging, dangling like old Christmas ornaments and her roots watered with the blood, sweat and tears of an ancient people. The weeping willow tree, her crown bowed in eternal sorrow for every bad word spat at another human being. Look at the Evergreens toiling endlessly through seasons, unyielding and unchanging. Each of you will stand in the Judgment according to your own deeds, your own works, and your own lives. I have the final say.

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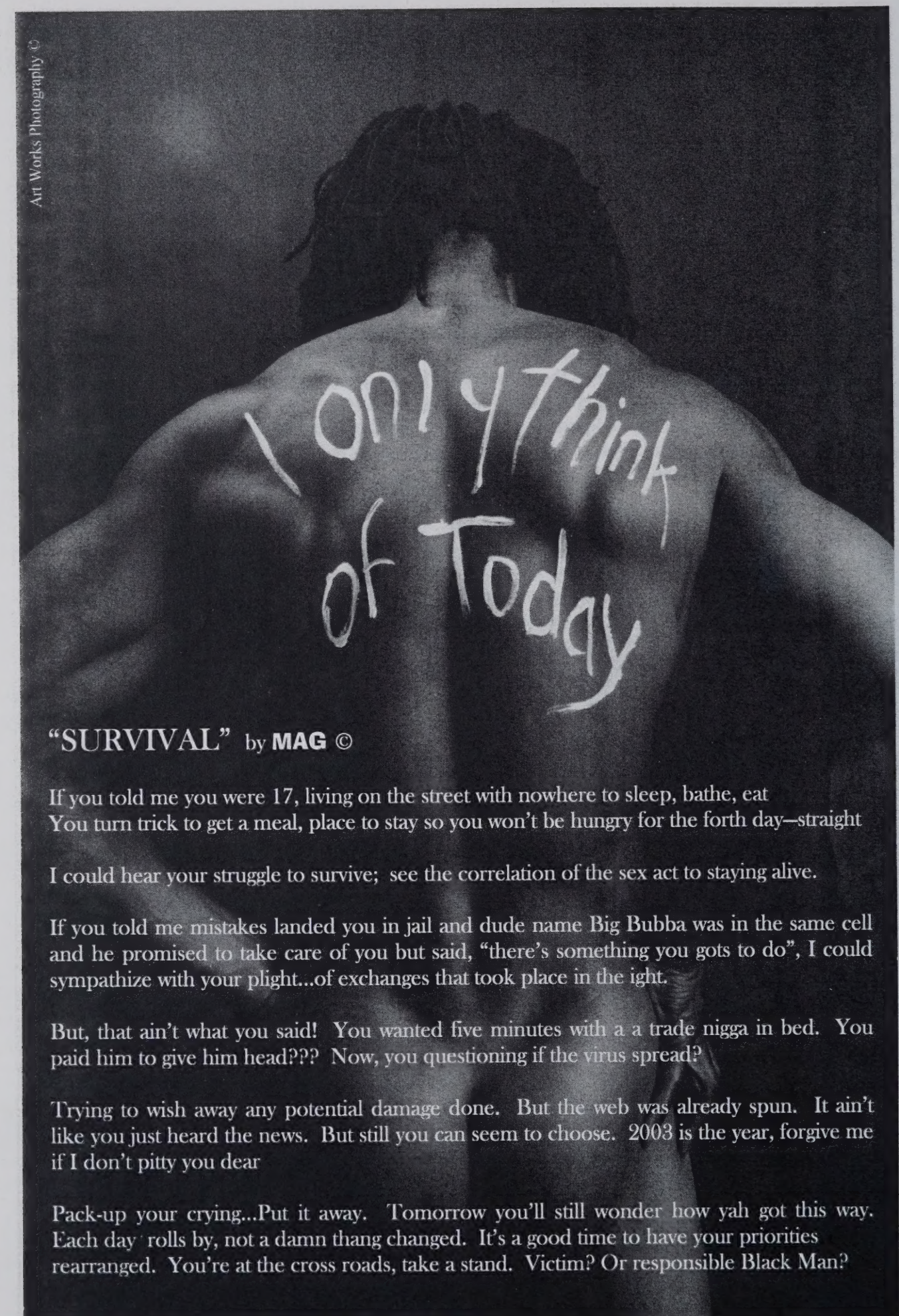
This essay is dedicated to members of the clergy who have demonstrated true and lasting courage in a troubled time.

Reverend Alvin O'Neal Jackson
Reverend Douglas Bailey
Reverend Cheryl Cornish
Reverend Kenneth Corr
Reverend Myron Donald
Reverend John Gilmore
Reverend Melvin Lee
Reverend Melvyn Gross



Art Works Photography ©

"SURVIVAL" by **MAG** ©

If you told me you were 17, living on the street with nowhere to sleep, bathe, eat
You turn trick to get a meal, place to stay so you won't be hungry for the forth day—straight

I could hear your struggle to survive; see the correlation of the sex act to staying alive.

If you told me mistakes landed you in jail and dude name Big Bubba was in the same cell and he promised to take care of you but said, "there's something you gots to do", I could sympathize with your plight...of exchanges that took place in the ight.

But, that ain't what you said! You wanted five minutes with a a trade nigga in bed. You paid him to give him head??? Now, you questioning if the virus spread?

Trying to wish away any potential damage done. But the web was already spun. It ain't like you just heard the news. But still you can seem to choose. 2003 is the year, forgive me if I don't pitty you dear

Pack-up your crying...Put it away. Tomorrow you'll still wonder how yah got this way. Each day rolls by, not a damn thang changed. It's a good time to have your priorities rearranged. You're at the cross roads, take a stand. Victim? Or responsible Black Man?

Brothers United Knoxville Chapter

presents *"An event that you don't want to miss..."*

Saturday, March 29th, 9PM

Location: TBA For more information contact Johnny at (865) 544-0863 or e-mail him at jlb30butler@aol.com

SIMBE SOCIAL # 6

Friday, April 18 "Good Friday"

SIMBE SOCIAL# 7

Friday, June 13 "Get Wicked"

SIMBE SOCIAL # 8

Friday, October 31 "Halloween"

SIMBE SOCIAL # 9

Friday, November 28
The day after Thanksgiving

All events take place at
The Onyx Room
624 Jefferson Street,

Featuring music from
DJ Robbie Rob
From Cleveland Ohio

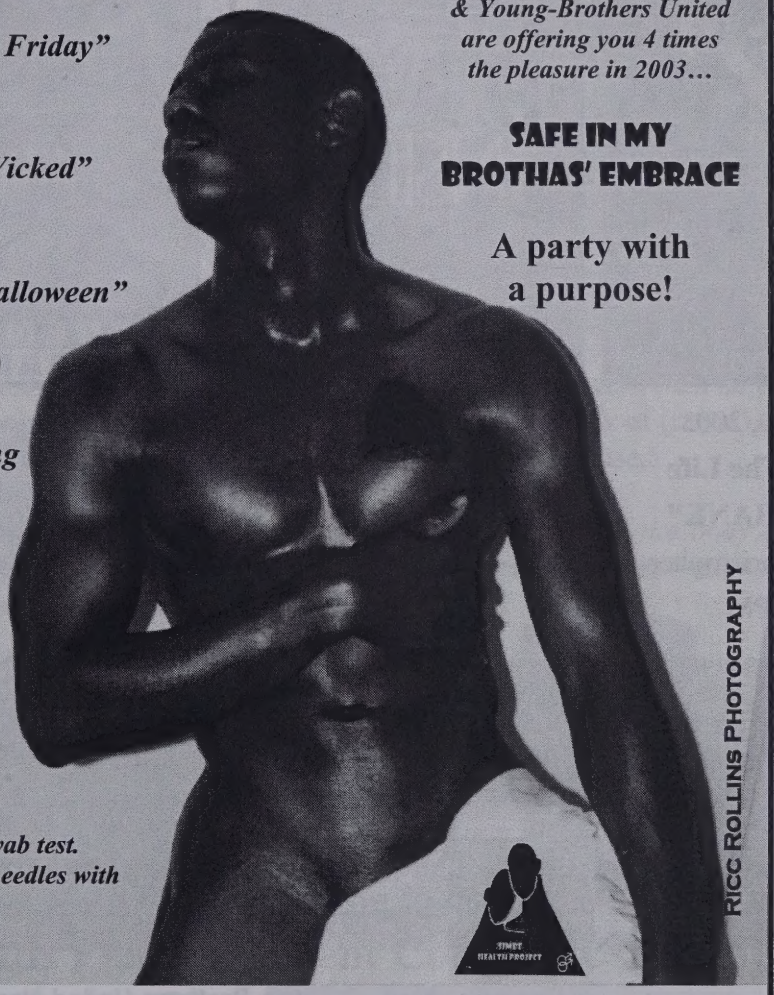
9PM - 2 AM
*Cost: $5 or FREE **

*** If you take a HIV OraSure swab test. The test does not use blood or needles with results back in days.*

Brothers United Nashville & Young-Brothers United are offering you 4 times the pleasure in 2003...

SAFE IN MY BROTHAS' EMBRACE

A party with a purpose!



RICC ROLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY

Safe In My Brothas' Embrace is a Brothers United health project that promotes HIV OraSure Testing in social settings for Black Gay Men, their partners, families, and friends.

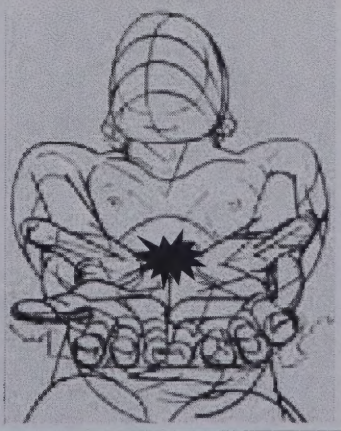
Brothers United Winter Retreat VII "Rebirth"
December 4 - 7, 2003

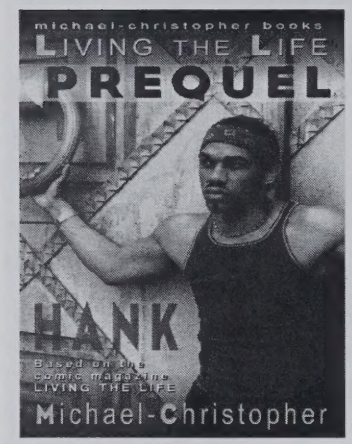
Montgomery Bell State Park / Burns, TN

$195 Per person before 9/2003
$225 per person afterwards

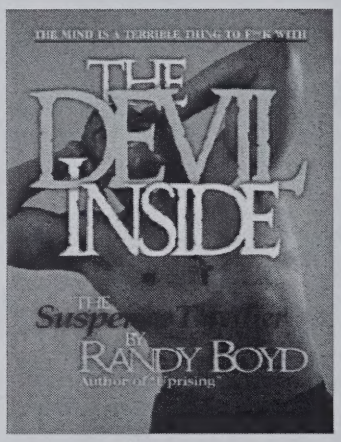
Includes double room occupancy, most meals, commemorative shirt, all workshops & entertainment.

For more info contact Dwayne Jenkins at Nashville CARES (800) 845-4266 ext # 269 or e-mail him at *brosunited@aol.com*



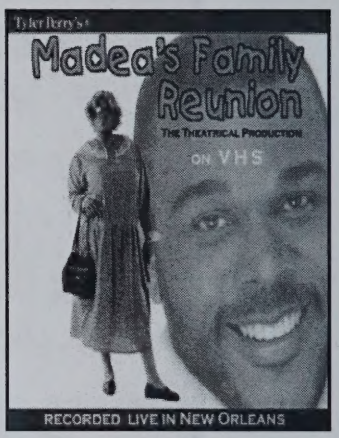


March 20, 2003
"Living The Life Prequel-HANK"
Michael-Christopher
6:30 PM



April 17, 2003
"The Devil Inside"
Randy Boyd
6:30 PM

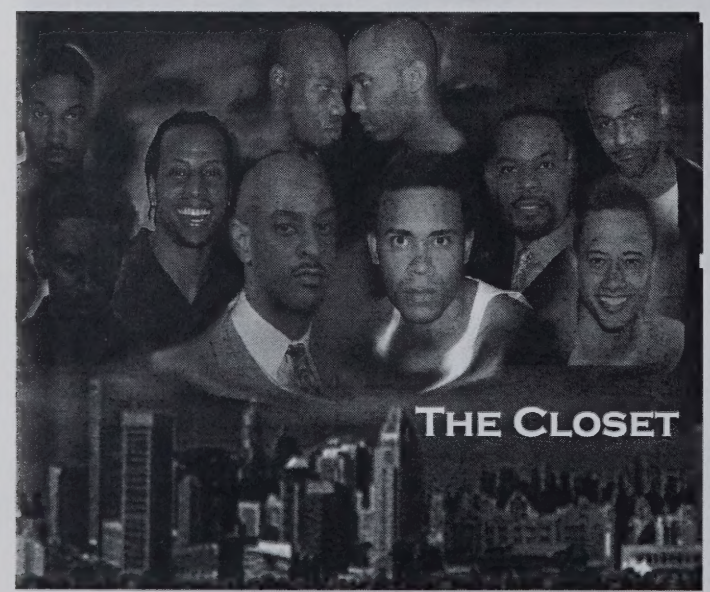
Saturday, March 22
"Parental Guidance"
8 PM



Saturday, April 19
"Madea's Family Reunion"
8 PM

Official Book Club Members receive an additional 20% off the book of the month compliments of our host store OUTLOUD Department Store. Our purpose for reading literature and showing a movie each month is to offer African American Same Gender Loving Men, Women, partners and friends a different type of social outlet that is both non-threatening and educational. Discussions of the books and films are provocative, entertaining, and sometimes emotional. Free snacks, popcorn, and beverages are always available. Each takes place at Nashville CARES. Bring a friend & make new ones!

FOR OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY
OUTLOUD!
NASHVILLE'S GAY & LESBIAN DEPARTMENT STORE
1709 Church St Nashville TN 37203

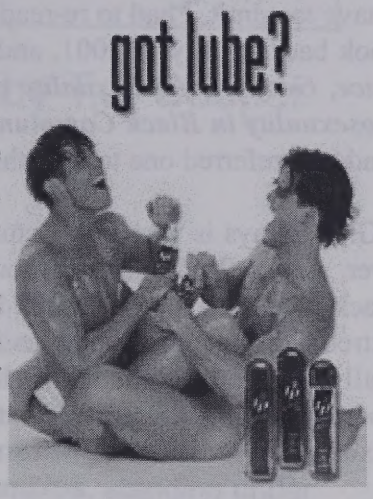


Brothers United Nashville will be Premiering "The Closet" mini series called "*Diversity That Binds*" in late March or early April at Nashville CARES. The screening of this 3 1/2 hour drama will be early evening and have two intermission breaks. This event will cost $8 per person and will be shown on a large screen TV. There will also be door prizes, snacks & refreshments provided.

A new episode of The Closet will then be shown on a monthly basis as they are released. Each screening after the initial premier will cost no more than $5 per person. This will be a separate movie option to the other monthly Men On Filmz presentations that are always free. Sorry, dubbing is not an option!

The only way to catch each episode is to special order your own DVD copy directly from their web-site listed on page 18. We may offer a Closet Marathon before the end of the year for those that can bare to take all of these men at one time.

Nonoxynol-9 Spermicide May Boost Risk of HIV Infection



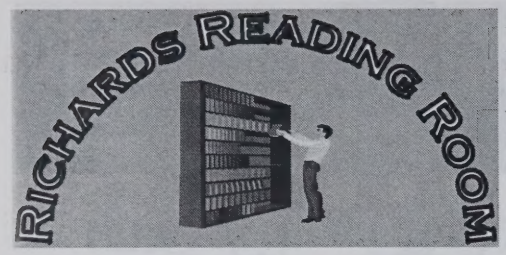
Research has found that the women who used Nonoxynol-9 (N-9) gel had become infected with HIV at about a 50% higher rate than women who used a placebo gel. Simply stated, N-9 did not protect against HIV infection and my have caused more transmission Given that N-9 has now been proven ineffective against HIV transmission, the possibility of risk, with no benefit, indicates that N-9 should not be recommended as an effective means of HIV prevention. With the release of this data, the scientific evidence on N-9 as an HIV prevention strategy is now conclusive and significant. Anyone currently using N-9 as a microbicide to protect themselves from HIV transmission during anal intercourse should be informed of the ineffectiveness of this agent and the warned of the potential risk of N-9. If given the choice, condoms without N-9 may be a better option for HIV prevention.

Since N-9 may cause some adverse effects, the experts recommended that such condoms should no longer be promoted, but noted that "it is better to use a N-9-lubricated condom than no condom." For anal intercourse, research in mice and humans suggests that N-9 causes "sloughing of sheets of (rectal) epithelium*," suggesting that lubricants containing the product could increase risk of infection soon after use.

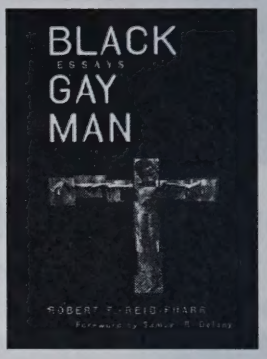
**epithelium the membranous cellular tissue that covers a free surface or lines a cavity of the body (rectum) and serves especially to enclose and protect the other parts of the body, to produce secretions and excretions.*

Awareness of HIV Status Plus Consistent Condom Use Must Be Increased to Lower Infection Rates Among Young Black MSM

Awareness of HIV infection status and the consistent use of condoms must be increased in order to lower the HIV infection rate among young black men who have sex with men (BMSM), according to a CDC study published in today's issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Young BMSM are at greater risk of HIV infection than any other group in the United States, according to the CDC's Young Men's Survey, which asked men between the ages of 15 and 22 who attended "MSM-identified venues" in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, the San Francisco Bay area and Seattle between 1994 and 1998 about their sexual histories and tested them for HIV. A total of 920 young BMSM participated in the survey, of whom 150 (16%) tested positive for HIV. Of those who tested positive, 139 were not aware of their seropositive status. Seventy-one percent of those who had a previously unrecognized infection said before testing that there was "no chance," it was "very unlikely" or it was "unlikely" that they had HIV. Overall, 64% of the young BMSM had been tested for HIV at least once before, but "few" had undergone frequent testing, despite the fact that 37% reported having unprotected anal sex in the six months prior to the survey. Among the men who had never been tested for HIV, 45% said they had not gotten tested because they thought they were at low risk for infection, 41% were afraid of learning their test results and 21% cited a fear of needles (Bingham et al., MMWR, 8/23).



Black Gay Man: Essays
by Robert F. Reid-Pharr
New York University Press
$16.95



I have to admit, I had to re-read ***Black Gay Man: Essays*** because I originally purchased the book back in July of 2001, and since then, I've read other cultural studies: ***Black Men on Race, Gender, and Sexuality*** edited by Devon W. Carbado and ***The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities*** edited by Delroy Constantine-Simms. Of course, comparisons are going to be made. I preferred one to the other, but I think all 3 deserve a place on the bookshelves.

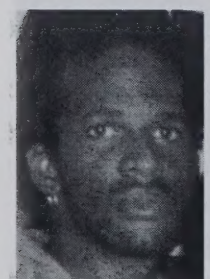
BGM: Essays is very intellectual, and its use of big words may turn off the average reader rather quickly. However, it was Reid-Pharr's articulation of his past white lovers that turned me off. Not that I have a disdain for black men who 'prefer' white boys, (I used to, but the way I see it now I think that they are experiencing self-hatred), the sexual adventures demonstrates an assortment of perverse tantalizing eroticism. Reid-Pharr doesn't really explain to my satisfaction as to why black men are attracted to white boys other than it's a sexual thing. He doesn't really explore the idea that some white boys have this Mandingo fantasy to be dominated by a well-hung sexual stud, or that some black men still have a sense of a Master/Slave mentality.

The gist of the 195-page book is divided into 3 parts that are further broken down into 3 sections. The first is titled BLACK, the second is GAY, and the third is MAN. As a first time reader, I guarantee you that upon follow-up readings, you may discover that Reid-Pharr wants you to believe that he has successfully navigated the pitfalls of being a black man *and* a black gay man. I don't think so. Reid-Pharr draws heavily upon the works of Frantz Fanon, George Jackson's (Soledad Brother) letters from prison, the poetry of Phyllis Wheatley, as well as Piri Thomas' ***Down these Mean Streets,*** Eldridge Cleaver's ***Soul on Ice,*** James Baldwin's ***Giovanni's Room,*** and posthumously, Gary Fisher's poetry, to demonstrate black anti-Semitism, the Million Man March, interracial sex, the black family, gay male identity, and lesbianism. Combining the intellectual with the emotional and erotic, Reid-Pharr truly succeeds in wanting the readers to possibly take the time to do their own research, as I did with Gary Fisher's ***Gary in your Pocket: Stories and Notebooks of Gary Fisher*** edited by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. Gary Fisher passed away from AIDS at the tender age of 34 in 1993. That book is truly unmerciful in the sense that it really gives insight into the often sadistic, perverse, and poetic sexual adventures with white boys

The cover of ***Black Gay Man*** is very reminiscent of the photography of the late white photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, who objectified black men as nothing more than sexual beings. The foreword is written by science fiction great Samuel R. Delaney, who has himself, engaged in interracial sex. So, draw your own conclusions!

Amazon.com states that the vitality and importance of the collection resides in Reid-Pharr's ability to move these works and their themes from the limited analysis of the academy into a broader realm of lived experience and social context that makes them, as well as Reid-Pharr's own thoughts, vital and genuinely consequential. Basically, that translates into that the collection is highly autobiographical, political, an excellent exercise in literature, and humor.

One reader who posted a message on Amazon.com writes: The title is from a hyper-academic writer and the volume is not a cute, accessible anthology with writings that would interest the average, gay black man. He goes on to say: This is not ***Brother-to-Brother*** or ***Fighting Words***. He feels the 'series of musings' written by a professor was trying to impress a tenure review board. Ouch! This reviewer also makes the claim that a lot of the book is heavily borrowed. He rated the volume 2 out of 5 stars. ***The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities*** is a much better read. It has more diverse opinions and the chapters, especially one of the articles written by E. Patrick Johnson is quite noteworthy.



Black Gay Man: Essays receives Richard's Reading Room's 1 and a half books out of 5.

"Free your mind and the rest will follow..."

This section was developed to give our readers and volunteers a chance to honestly express themselves about any topic without judgment or ridicule.

SKETCH DIALOGUE: "Jeremy" by T.J. Cooper

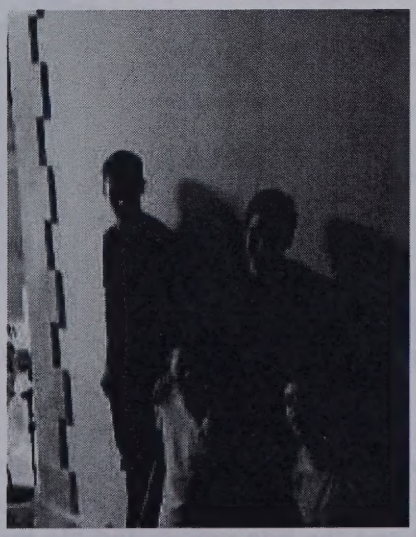
Saturday. 11:50 p.m. At the Metro. Memphis.

I'm chatting nervously on the cell with my flaky friend Frederica as I stroll towards the entrance of an almost empty bar of about 20 men. I don't even make it inside. In front of me is a smooth, sassy, thin, 5'9", baby-faced Latin-looking boy chatting nervously on his cell as well. Yet, while I was revealing to Frederica my ambition of becoming a glamorous gay syndicated columnist, this guy was frantically making calls to friends in Chicago, Dallas, and Atlanta – searching in the dark for a way out of Memphis, standing under the shaky glare of a flickering street light.

"Jeremy – my name is Jeremy," he quickly asserts away from his phone conversation. It took me a second to realize that I'd been staring at him for a minute, as I blabbed on about how my stomach turns each time I come near a bar or club.

"The gay lifestyle is all about sex, sex, sex – *with or without* latex... and I'm only here to write a column about it," I said, rhyming to Frederica.

At that point Jeremy abruptly ceased his national quest to flee from Memphis. "Oh no you did *not* just say that. Gay guys are all about *what*? Look, if you're doing columns on the 'gay lifestyle' I need to be the first to tell you it doesn't exist," Jeremy purred, with a catty dash of attitude.



At that moment, I realized I'd encountered an interesting individual – at least at this particular place and time. "I'm Cooper, and I totally apologize," I said as I hung up on Frederica and then extended a peaceful hand which Jeremy shook with mild trust. "Would you mind elaborating on why there's no such thing as a gay lifestyle? Can I ask you why you're trying to leave Memphis? , " I blurted out suddenly.

"Sure. I'll tell you a few things, yeah. But not everything," he giggled – suddenly forgiving me for my witty but shitty comment that had caused him to correct me only moments ago. Of course this Jeremy was eager to divulge his opinions, but I was more interested in why was he in such a hurry to move away. There had to be a deep dark reason, and I suddenly became eager to shed some light on the situation.

Continued on page # 14

"Free your mind and the rest will follow...

Continued from page # 13

This is my sketch dialogue with a random guy named Jeremy.

Cooper: So why isn't there a gay lifestyle?
Jeremy: What makes a lifestyle? Reading a certain magazine? Dancing at a certain club? Snorting a certain drug? Wearing certain clothes? Having sex a certain way? That's all just an image, an illusion. Listen, almost every day I go to work for eight hours, come home, eat, shit, shower, and sleep. Of course I do other things, but my point is that we're all human. And *that's* reality.

C: I can't disagree on that one. So what 'other things' do you do?
J: I'm a manager at a Taco Bell. I masturbate twice a day, since I broke up with my boyfriend last week.... [*Laughs nervously.*]

C: Too much info. But tell me about your ex-boyfriend.
J: The best and worst five years of my life. I couldn't take all the cheating and beating. I had to quit. I still love him though.

C: Cheating and beating?
J: He fucked around with other guys while we were together. I knew all about it. There wasn't much I could do. Whenever I get the nerve to confront him, I get these. [*Lifts up shirt, revealing bruises and what appears to be a bite mark on his back.*]

C: That looks pretty rough. How long has he been abusive?
J: About 2 years... since we've been living together. I should be the one slapping the shit out of somebody, because he gave me ... [*Pauses for a moment.*] I don't need to talk about that.

C: An STD?
J: Syphilis. He gave it to me 2 or 3 years ago. It's really not that bad. It's all cleared up now.

C: You make it sound so simple. Man, that's one of the worst STDs. Why didn't you just leave him then? Are you sure someone else didn't give it to you?
J: It would've been too hard to leave. We lived together and I didn't have anywhere else to go. No money, no family, just nothing. Okay, I did mess around with one or two guys. Sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do...but I think we used condoms.

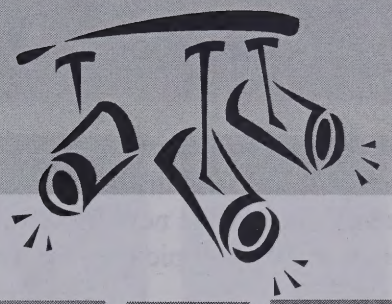
C: You *think* you used condoms? Have you been tested for HIV in the past 6 months? Or ever?
J:Look, don't get preachy with me. I've had enough bullshit in my life, and I'm just ready to move on away from Memphis.

C: I understand. I overheard your conversations. So you're trying to move to Atlanta?
J: Yes. I'm driving down there next weekend to see a few friends...I'm gonna celebrate my new freedom. [*Licks his lips.*] Hopefully I won't have to come back here.

With those words, I froze. The thought that Jeremy may be carrying a disease to another city and having unprotected sex in the process made my stomach turn and my skin crawl. Without sipping a single drink – or even stepping foot inside the bar – I was queasy and uneasy. The syphilis, the bruises and the bite marks, and the thinly veiled low self-esteem and hustling of Jeremy – and countless other gay men – somehow all converged in my mind. Suddenly the flickering street light twelve feet above his head burned out, cueing me to go home alone sheltered from the all the Jeremy's of this life.

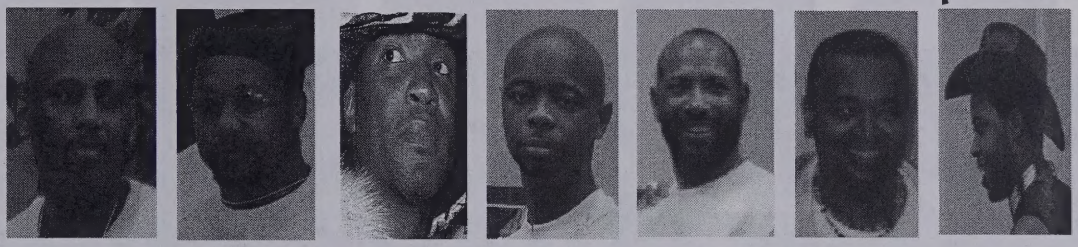
BU VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Brothers United has always been a volunteer driven group. Highlighting new and other faithful members is our way to say THANKS.

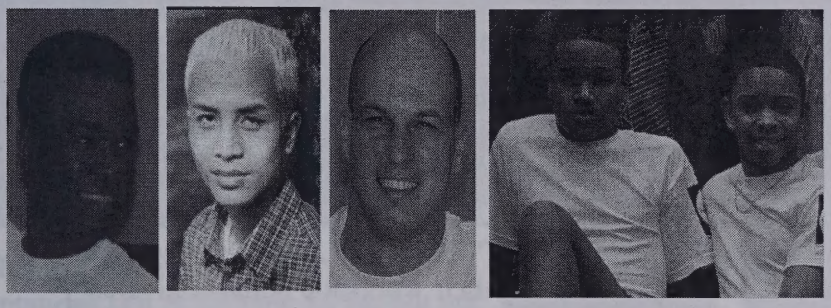


Celebrating their 5th Year BU Retreat Milestone:

From left: Timothy, Malcolm, "Hardaway", Keith, Reggie, "Fox" & Sam each received their commemorative plate.



Top 10 Volunteer Hours: *From left: (below)* Jared, Patrick, Robert (also **2002 Brotha' Man Award** recipient), DeAntwayne & Antyon (pictured above Timothy, Malcolm, "Hardaway", Keith,) not pictured James G. (also **2002 Wing Beneath My Wing Award** recipient), and Johnny B.



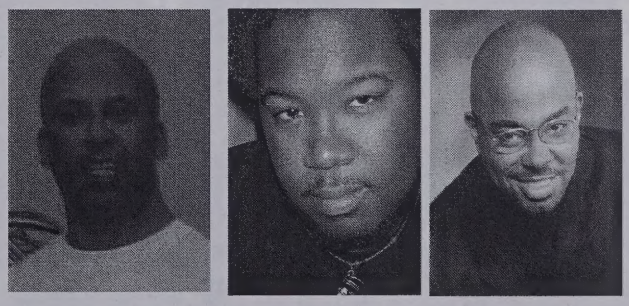
The two young men pictured together to the left also received the **2002 Vision Award Plaques** for each Co-Founding Y-BU (Young Brothers United). Not only did DeAntwayne, age 19, and Antyon, age 20, help develop the group, but they also were the # 1 and # 2 volunteers with the highest hours for the year. They prove that the youth ARE our future!

Regional Awards: *On the side from Left:*

Gregory Victorianne, **Dedication & Service Award**

Robert K. Burns, **2002 Fellowship Award**

J. Ricc Rollins II, **2002 Model / Photographer of the Year**



Young Brothers United

Y-BU Nashville ™

Mission: To uplift a generation of Young African-American Same Gender Loving Males in Nashville through professional & personal development while also preventing HIV/AIDS through outreach, education and awareness to youth between the ages of 13-24.

- HIV/AIDS Education
- Rap Groups
- Social Activities
- Safer Sex Workshops
- HIV Counseling & Testing
- Skills Building Courses
- Sexuality & Religion Empowerment
- Recreational programs
- Capacity Building Training
- Career Counseling
- Networking with other SGL Youth Groups across the country
- Shelter, Legal & Medical referrals

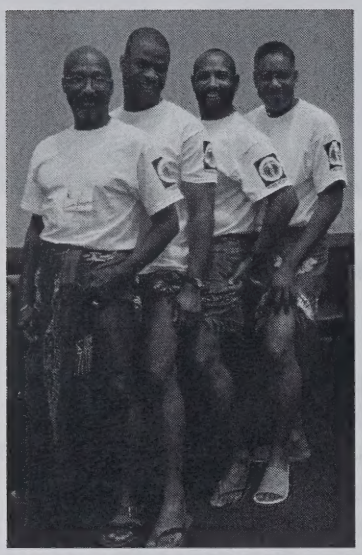
Join Us!

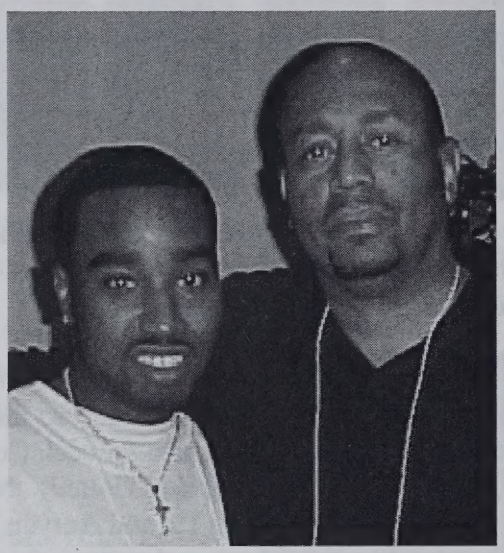
Saturday, March 22, 12 noon-2 PM at CARES

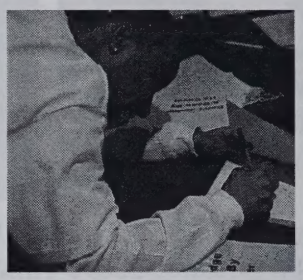
Saturday, April 19, 12 noon-2 PM at CARES

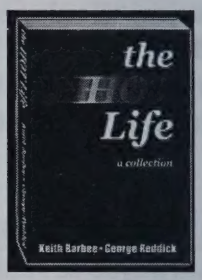
Brothers United Winter Retreat VI : Recap

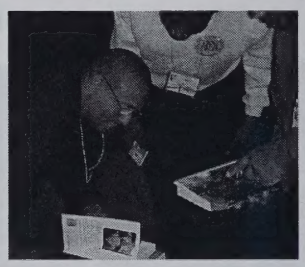
For 6 consecutive years, Brothers United Nashville has hosted a Winter Retreat in December to educate, empower, and celebrate the works of both our local and statewide chapter volunteers throughout the year. It is a time to gather, make new friends, and get reacquainted with old buddies. This pictorial highlights our time together in 2002. If pictures are worth a thousand words, get ready to read a novel chil-ren.

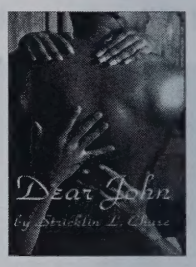










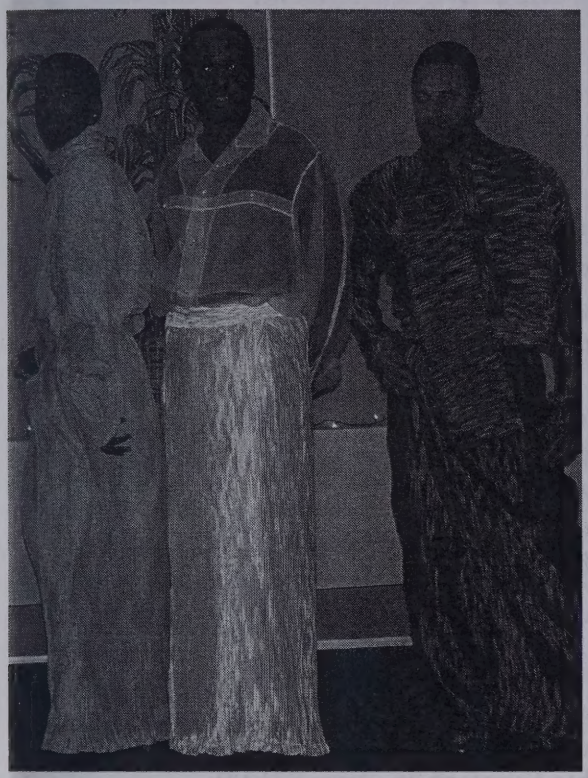


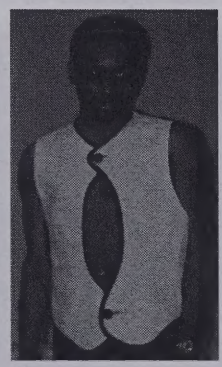
That's right we're all in sarongs! Multicolored and serving it as only we could...with flavor!!

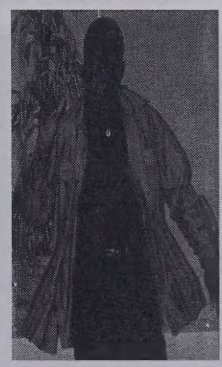
Pictured above are authors Keith Barbee ("The Hot Life") & Strickland Chase ("Dear John") shown together during their workshop collaborative entitled "Literally Speaking". That's right brothas, sell them books!

Although everyone isn't accounted for here, we still had it going on. The hotel was what? Not ready!

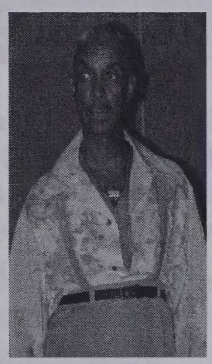
"Evolution": Montgomery Bell State Park

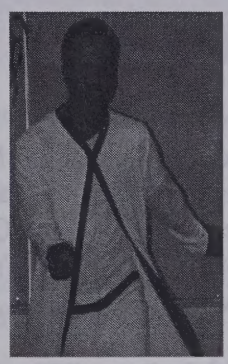


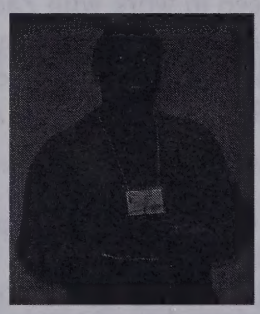


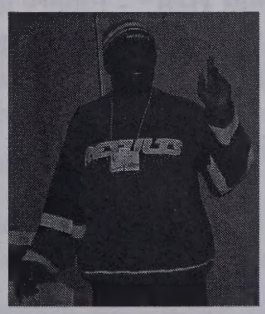


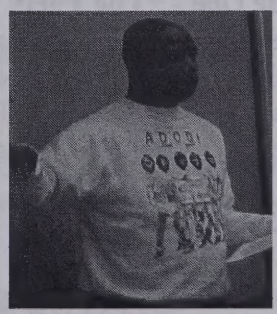
The **Men Of Rainbow** not only performed a Temptations skit & lip sync for us, but put on the most fagulous fashion show. Participants helped to show of their European Collection. And yes, they all worked & walked the runway!

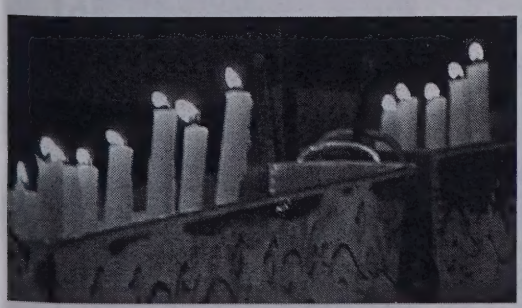


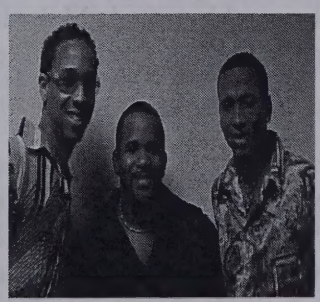


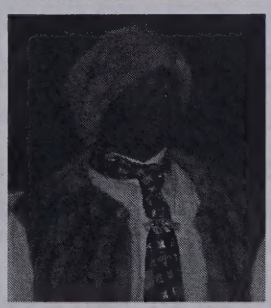


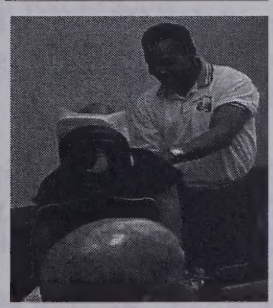












The committee would like to thank all of the workshop facilitators, Keynote Speakers, Authors and volunteers for a wonderful weekend experience. We realize that December is a very busy month, and take pride in having 75 out of 78 registered participants make their way to Burns TN for our retreat.

The 4-1-1

What we can look forward to inside **The Closet ®**

The CLOSET is the first series that reflects the stories of unique black men living their lives to the beat of a different drum within the heterosexual world.

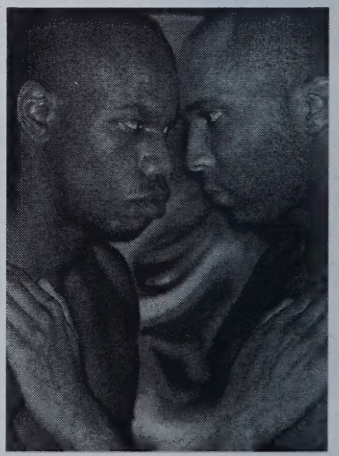
Created by SENWOT NELLA PRODUCTIONS, this dvd-Drama Series reveals the astonishing lives of Emory, Isaiah, Eugene, Nicholas and Zachary. This present day show with a backdrop of Baltimore begins with the wedding of Jeffrey Freeman, an acquaintance of the five groomsmen. The men soon discover that they were all reluctant about participating in Jeffrey's wedding, due to its nature. An explosive bonding session establishes an unpredicted friendship that withstands the elements of tragedy, humor, drama, and misfortune.* ***Release dates subject to change***

The Closet Mini Series (3.5 hours) - **"Diversity that Bonds"** - Five unique men (shown from left to right - Nicholas, Emory, Isaiah, Eugene and Zachary) who share an acquaintance with Jeffrey Freeman but not with one another are invited by him to be a part of his wedding. After the wedding the five men retire to a hotel room and discovers a common bond. Donnell finds out about Jerome. Malcolm faces the truth about himself and Donnell. Troy meets Sheldon. Nathaniel and Sharon celebrate their wedding anniversary and Kathy calls Nicole with an offer to come back to the states. *Available February 26, Price $21.99.

The Pilot (2 hours)- **"The 'T' (ruth) shall set you free"** - Eugene disappears after learning the truth about his divorce. Donnell and Malcolm discuss their future. Zachary makes a decision about Jeanette and Quincy. Isaiah stresses about his relationship with Eric being exposed. Sharon is confronted by Carol. Zachary attends a radio conference in London. Quincy over hears important information. Donnell and Malcolm share their news with Kim. Troy meets Sheldon's parents. Nathaniel works at avoiding Eugene and Eric is disappointed by Isaiah's actions. *Available March 11, Price $19.99

Episode One - **"The Party from Hell"** - Emory is forced to work with Zachary. Emory and Brandon's relationship is questioned. Zachary is questioned about marriage. Nicholas host the grand opening of his new antique shop and a special guest attends. Nicole starts her new career in Baltimore. Jeanette tries to find the origin of Zachary's mystery mail and telephone calls. Troy becomes angry with Sheldon's games. * Available February 18th Price $14.99 - Viewer's Special - $12.99 ending March 18, 2003.

Episode Two - **"We must keep movin"** - Zachary's working relationship with Emory explodes. Qunicy corner's Zachary. Isaiah plans a dream vacation for five. Eugene makes an important decision about his children. Sheldon meets a new friend. Clara's concerned about Sheldon's behavior. An old love with a problem finds Malcolm and Nita questions Donnell about his sexuality. *Available April 2, Price $14.99 - Viewer's Special - $12.99 ending March 1, 2003..



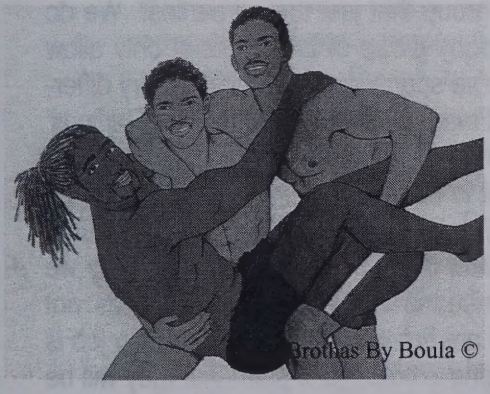
Episode Three-**"I'm Not Gay!"** * Available April 16:	Price $14.99
Episode Four - **"Seek and you shall find"** * Available April 29:	Price $14.99
Episode Five - **"I can't believe this is happening"** *Available May 6:	Price $14.99
Episode Six - **"I love my wife"** * Available May 20:	Price $14.99
Episode Seven - **"Is it truly over?"** * Available May 3:	Price $14.99

****The Brothers United sponsored project, "Men On Filmz", will be showing an episode each month. Be sure to keep an eye out for the dates, cost, and times. You won't wanna miss it!**

Diamond's Tranz Central Station

Welcome aboard our world...

Well first let me start by saying congratulations to Regine Phillips on her move to Chicago and the Baton Show Lounge. Also welcome to Nashville the beautiful and talented Tamisha Iman the new show director at the Connection Nashville. I hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday season with lots of time spent with family friends, clubbing, cocktails, and lots of sex (**safer sex that is**). Mine was great! I spent Christmas with loved ones and New Year's was spent in Atlanta with some girlfriends. As you can see it's getting a little cold out, but that won't last too long. After while we will be riding with the top down chilling outside the internationally known bookstore having a gay ole time. As for my sisters, it's pageant time once again and you know what that means...getting that complete package together, costumes, gowns the whole 9 yards in quest for whatever title you desire with hopefully **no shade** in your way. From what I hear, it has already begun with the *you know what* pageant. I can't recall it for certain but I think the initials are sum-sum like N.E.O.Y. As quiet as it's kept, the true winner of that pageant was indeed a SECRET. So as we prepare for 2003 and all it has to offer, whether good or bad, remember you control your own DESTINY so keep it cute. Smooches



How do you deal with the temptation to have unsafe sex?

Plan ahead: Think of situations which might tempt you in the future, and anticipate how you will deal with them. "Let's live for the moment, baby" thinking leads to a lot of disease transmission.

Think about more than the moment -- think about the rest of your life.

Keep safer sex supplies around everywhere -- not just the bedroom, but in your car, in your backpack, in your purse, in your gym bag, in your jacket pockets. You won't have to deal with the temptation of "I really want to and we don't have any protection available ..."

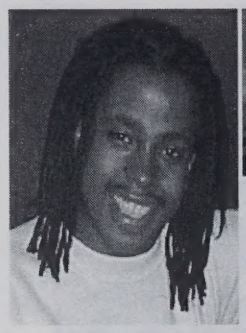
Avoid mixing sex with drugs or alcohol. You can deal with temptation much better when you're sober.

If you're positive, remember how angry you felt at the person you think infected you, whether you knew specifically who it was or not. Do you really want someone feeling that way towards you?

If you're negative, take a hard, cold look at what being HIV-positive really involves. Do you want to have to face even more prejudice, possible medication side effects and all the rest, if you don't have to?

If you slip once, don't fall for the "it doesn't matter now" thinking. Jump right back on the safer sex bandwagon. You can still keep your risk lower.

Excerpts from "Loving Yourself to Love Others" By Sandra K. Trisdale, Ph.D. www.thebody.com



"Clarity"

By Dwayne Jenkins, Editor

The Random House College Dictionary defines "clarity" as (1) the state or quality of being clear or transparent to the eye, (2) lucidity as to perception or understanding; freedom from ambiguity. My definition, for the purpose of this article, is basically the same and just as simple. Clarity, to me, means that a person totally understands the who, what, when and how's of an event, a situation, or state of being. The reason I felt the need to start out the year 2003 with this theme is because there are still plenty of people in the dark about who and what Brothers United is. We are a collective of African American Same Gender Loving (*Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, questioning and whatever else they call it now a days*) Men that have come together to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. This collective also aspires to continue to help improve the mental, physical, and spiritual health & wellness of our brothers, as well as to educate and empower the Same Gender Loving (SGL) communities that we live in. We are HIV-, HIV+, twist or lock sporting, receding haired or extension wearing, young and old Black men. Some of us are educated, some not. Some are single, some are in relationships. Some are into White men, some into Hispanic men, but most are generally into men period. Our volunteers are both tops and bottoms, in the choir at church or screwing someone in the choir at church. There are men who still have sex with women, a few have children, and others have grandchildren. Most are intelligent and honest, and others can be sneaky and trifling muthafucas. We are who we are...we are Brothers United! A group of diverse men individually striving to live productive lives while also making the conscience effort to work together for the greater good to help maintain healthy, productive, and visionary Black Gay Men for our future.

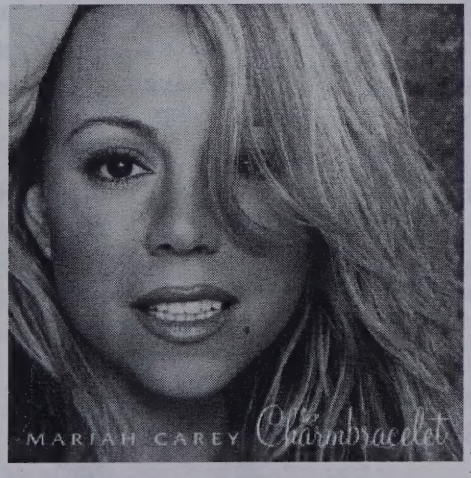
Our main mission, to those who may question, is clear. We provide HIV prevention education and outreach to Black Gay / SGL, and otherwise unidentified men who have sex with other men. If you are already infected, we move forward and continue in our efforts to encourage each other to strive for total wellness, which in turn will make each of us live a better quality of life. Don't get me wrong, none of us are perfect by any means. We do however have standards and protocol by which we run our business. As the founder and coordinator of this business, it is important that anyone interested, already involved, or just hanging around are clear of what BU is and what BU ain't. We aren't a social group that just throws parties. We do throw fabulous functions, but that's not what we are solely about. We aren't a snobby group of brothas' that only allow "certain" folks to be a part. Wrong, wrong, wrong; have you ever been to anything we've sponsored? We are all very different, but still come together in a positive fashion to get the job done. We don't conduct meetings to talk about folks. Darlings' believe me, our precious time and oxygen is much too important. We don't all screw each other or hit on one another at every opportunity. Yeah, when you get men together, some may hook up, but that is between him, him and sometimes him...not the entire volunteer group. We don't sponsor any type of sex fest or activity, and don't judge others that do. Actually if we had the heads up, we'd proudly provide the participants of that gathering with free condoms and lube. Lastly we aren't a preachy group of do gooders either. Hell, if the truth be told, it wouldn't surprise me if a few of our BU brothas' not only passed out condoms in that group sex environment, but joined in as well. We all are human folks, not saints! Our job is to provide the tools to either help advance, improve or save a life. It is our hope to bring brothas' to a point that they will be the one to decide to change their life or behavior. Deciding what is healthy for someone is primarily up to them. If we remain true to our cause, passion and mission, maybe, just maybe someone will simply get it. Yes, this then reaches beyond the scope of HIV/AIDS, but Black Gay / SGL Men are, and have always been, much bigger than this damn virus and disease.

As BU grows and our work expands beyond Tennessee, both the volunteers and I hope that we can continue connecting, educating and growing together. Doing this type of work, whether you're getting paid or volunteering, is not easy. Especially when you continue to see our youth under 19 testing HIV + over and over again; when you hear about your friends, family and peers steadily passing, one after another, due to complications of AIDS. Let me be clear and to the point. If you don't like something we are doing, or feel the need to criticize our efforts in a negative way, I challenge you to redirect that energy and come join us in the struggle. There is definitely room at the table for you, your ideas and voice. If you've never planned anything bigger than a house party, don't trip when you hear or notice that an event we use to do is no longer free or as cheap as it use to be. If you don't have anything good or helpful to say, simply shut the fuck up chile. Yes I know people will always talk, but we have really got to stop tearing each other down all the time and try to support each other instead. With HIV funding continually decreasing, BU has taken on more of the responsibility for financing some of the non-health / grant specific events by ourselves. It is unhealthy to depend on someone else to carry, pay, sponsor or donate things all the time especially in business. As a wise man once said, "clarity is our friend and communication is our partner". I hope that some of the fog has now been lifted and some of the blinders removed.

Eew, That's My Song...

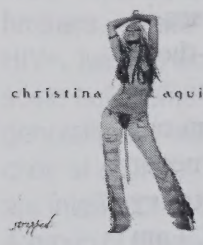
By Keith Chandler

Well Happy New Year and all that jazz (yes, I want to see the film "Chicago")! Another year, more struggle, more triumphs and most of all – more music. Before I get into what's in my mp3 player right now, Dwayne has graciously granted me a few extra lines. I want to speak simply about what I consider to be a modern travesty. At many a holiday party, the hot gossip was the fact that Morris Brown College has received some very disheartening news. Their loss of accreditation was a shock to even those privy to internal goings-on at the institution. It bothered me because it forced me to revisit how African-Americans can rejoice in the trumpeting our rise in personal income and upward mobility and yet fail to uplift the very institutions that have sustained us. Yes, I am well aware that after the mixed blessing of integration that we have many choices in higher education, but I am always sucker punched at how we discard institutions like those shiny muscle tees that we wouldn't be caught dead in now. Whether you are formally educated or not, attended an (Historically Black College/University) HBCU or not, we should affirm our educational institutions so that they may be there for the next person (even if we will never need them). **Our educational choices are just as IMPORTANT as our church sanctuary and it is imperative upon us to make them both shine**. Before anyone gets it twisted, I am NOT saying blindly throw money at anything. Support our HBCUs with money, with time, with expertise, with anything you have. Only then can you truly hold them accountable for their strengths and their weaknesses. Then you can rightfully bitch and moan when they lose accreditation, turn "white", or are simply nothing more than a "party school". In a time when the black image for public consumption is professional athletes, entertainers, and venus hotentots-nothing whatsoever like the educated, compassionate, service-minded folk I know- this is an opportunity for us to show that we stand for something meaningful. Plus, as I'm writing this, I am also thinking how many of our SGL brothers and sisters are caught by the Brown incident or at other more humble HBCUs. **Make it a New Year's resolution to throw $5 at an HBCU, the College Fund, or the Thurgood Marshall Foundation in 2003**. Then perhaps next year, we can celebrate someone's graduation. Very few of you reading this can tell me that you don't waste $5 a month, I know I do. And now, back to the music…



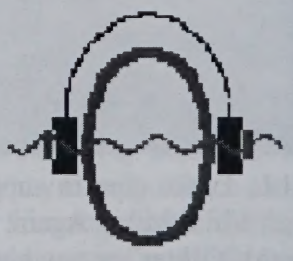
Hell have freezeth over…Those of you that know me know that I would rather have been caught dead than actually like a **Mariah Carey** album. Too many contradictions (and not in the artsy sense). But Y'ALL, I love "*Charmbracelet*". Of course, my favorite tracks are "Lullaby" and "Subtle Invitation", the two songs that sound like she is trying to craft a more mature sound. If the Top 10 R&B basslines are ever compiled, I'm sure that Leon Haywood's "I Wanna Do Something Freaky To You" will be on that list. It is what made Snoop's song so irresistible and producer Jermaine Dupri uses it again on Mariah's "You Had Your Chance". "Yours" is simple, modern R&B and since I don't care for Eminem AT ALL, I take glee in supposing that "Clown" was partially inspired by Ms. Carey's dealings with Mr. 8 Mile. Again, I didn't expect to like this CD only to snicker loudly like I did when I heard "Glitter" or anything after her second album. I was wrong…

Another CD that keeps finding its way back into my active music rotation is "*Simply Deep*" by this generation's Mary Wilson, **Kelly Rowland**. Kelly decided to try some different sounds and textures on her solo record and me likes. "My Obsession", "Love/Hate" (which Brandy's husband produced), "Past 12" (another one of those "getting ready" songs), and acoustic and finger-snap ballad "Haven't Told You" stand out as my favorites. The CD must be pretty good because her Destiny's Child fans have avoided it like the plague (as they did Beyonce's Tina Turner-inspired solo single "Work It Out")…



Christina Aguilera ran fast and hard away from "Come on Over" and "Genie In A Bottle" on her latest, *Stripped*. Led by the first single "Dirrty" (which NO ONE liked but ME), this too-long CD is her attempt to say "Damn what I look like, I'm talented". Those of you that enjoyed Alicia Keys debut CD will enjoy this one as Ms. Aguilera tries on a lot of genres. There's some blues, some rock ("Fighter", "Make Over"), some R&B ("Impossible"), some schmaltz ("Beautiful"). None of it sticks enough to reveal a true reinvention. In fact, it smacks of a desperate attempt to run away from "pop" songs. The reality is some pop songs like "Come On Over" are really good (listen to the mp3 recorded from MTV Stripped) and not a shabby way to build a career. Yes, Ms. Aguilera still seems poised to receive the "Teena Marie" Award, but only with a less diverse and more focused collection. For example, "Loving Me 4 Me" takes her in a good direction as does "Fighter". *Stripped* is the kind of CD idea that sounds perfect when you're crafting a live performance set list, but just is too scattered to be a cohesive record…

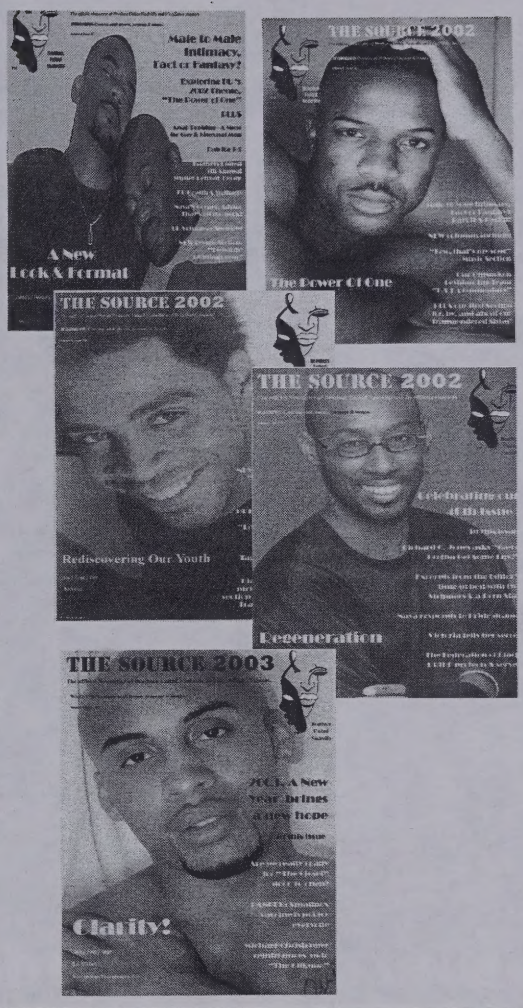
In singles news, I'm just not feelin' **Justin**'s "Cry Me A River". Sounds like it was obviously created during the "Are You That Somebody" sessions, I dunno…However, the Neptunes work that live drums thang to perfection again on **702**'s latest, "Star". I have to refrain from dancing at the gym when this tune pops up. **Badu**'s "Love of My Life" seems to have staying power on the charts, but funny- I never hear it on the radio anymore. Is it me, or has **Amerie** ripped Mary J's phrasing to a "t"?!?!?!?! I've been spinning her album and I'll be damned if she doesn't sound as if someone said "sing it like Mary J, ok?" I noticed that Cory Rooney was involved in the production and wonder how much input he had in crafting what we now recognize as Mary's sound. Do like Amerie's CD, although that wretched first single, ("Why Don't We Fall In Love") gets my vote for "least actual lyrics repeated the most in one song" award. Don't care how much you may like **Toni Braxton**, leave "More Than A Woman" in the store! Who the hell convinced her to work with Birdman? Again, the most interesting tracks are the ones produced by her husband, Keri Lewis ("Lies, Lies, Lies"). No, Ms. Braxton, give *my* unh-unh back- I'll see you in "AIDA" on Broadway… **Whitney** can't find her crack receipt or the time to make a complete CD, huh? I like *Just Whitney*, but 39 minutes is not enough for 15-16 dollars. I still hate that radio didn't embrace "Whatchulookinat"(esp. the P-Diddy remix), but perhaps they'll get it in gear for "Things You Say" or "Dear John Letter". Finally, I was more than a little disappointed in the new tracks on the posthumous **Aaliyah** release. I thought for sure Timbaland would have one more "banger" (as the kids say) in the vaults. "Miss You" is pretty enough, but I was hoping to dance in her spirit one more time…SICK, SICK, SICK of **Jennifer Lopez** in all her permutations. I'm not fooled by the rocks that you got…Why doesn't someone just call her a whore and get it over with.



For Jan/Feb/Mar 2003, ooooh that's my song:

5. Say Yes – Floetry
4. Loving Me 4 Me – Christina Aguilera
3. Subtle Invitation – Mariah Carey
2. Searchin – Nicole J. McCloud
1. **Dark Beat – Oscar G. & Ralph Falcon/We Gon' Do It To Ya – Busta Rhymes**

Subscribe Today!



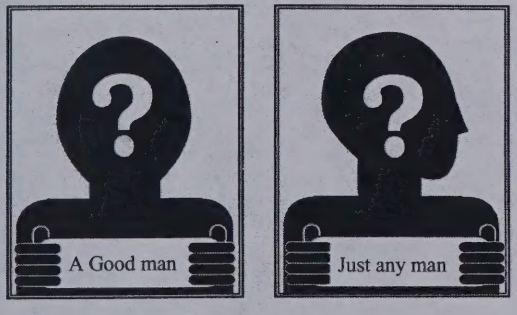
Due to increased circulation and flat funding, the Brothers Untied & Y-BU programs at Nashville CARES will no longer able to ship our newsletter to the over 300 additional out of state people on our mailing list. We will still be able to print and ship free copies to people in Tennessee, but anyone living outside of the state, and still interested in getting a copy of **THE SOURCE**, will have to pay for a subscription. The cost of a one year subscription (4 issues) is being offered at the special introductory rate of $5.00 per household. This will cover our cost for printing & postage.

Any out of state person that has either paid for a subscription last year, or attended the 2002 Winter Retreat will continue to receive the newsletter for the rest of 2003.

We will also be selling ad & insert space for those who are interested in advancing their marketing opportunities. **THE SOURCE** is currently distributed to over 450 homes in the state of Tennessee and already has over 30 additional subscribers nationally.

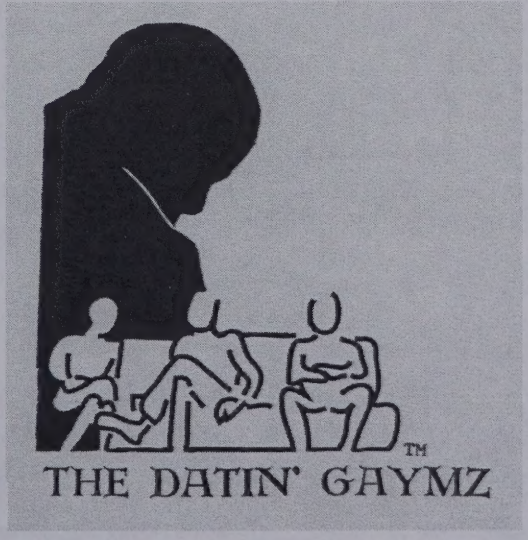
Please contact us directly for more information. (page # 3)

WANTED



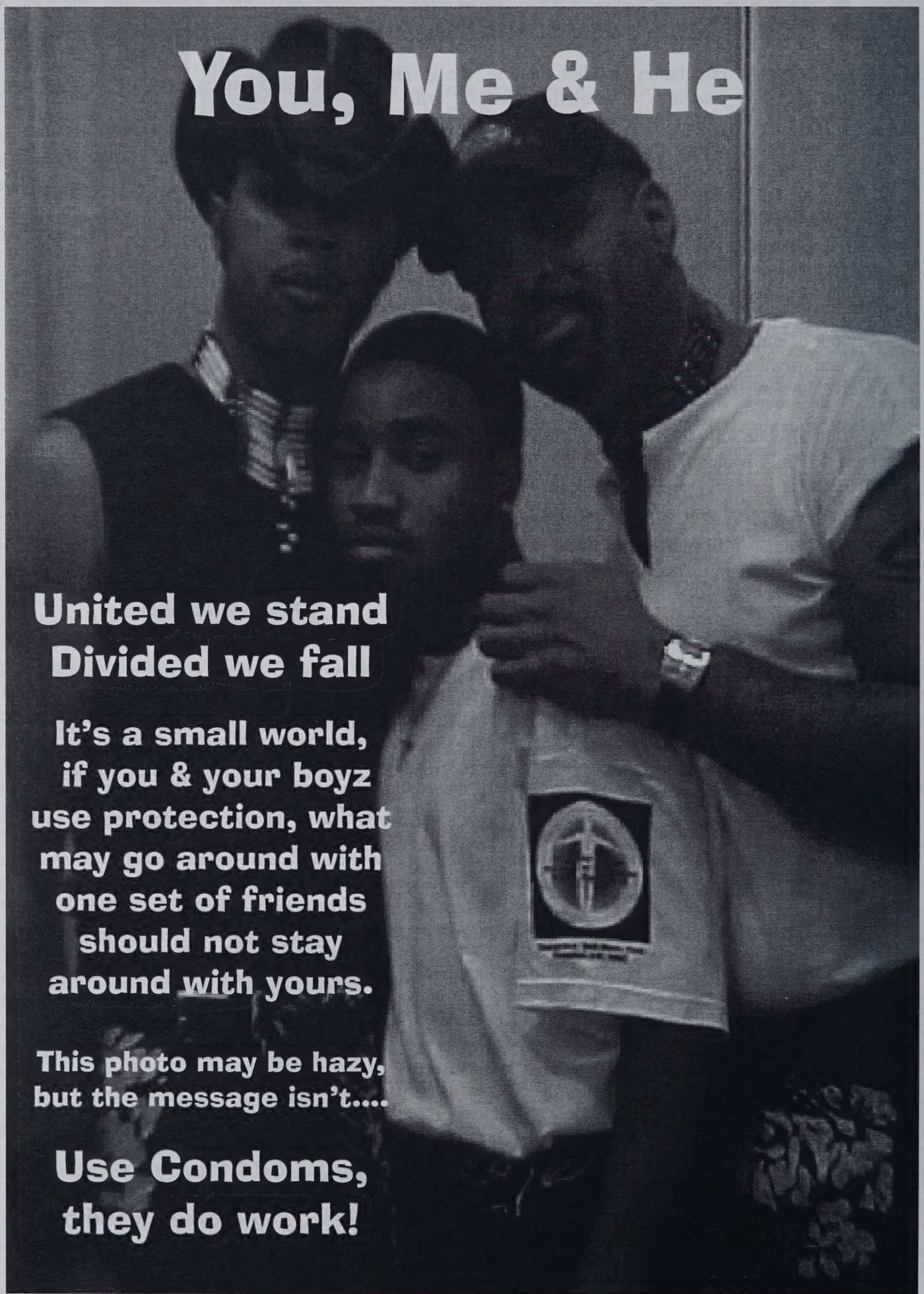
Single Gay / Bi Men are needed to play the Brothers United version of the old game shows *The Dating Game & Love Connection*. Participants must complete an application and be willing to sit in front of a live audience of same gender loving folks for fun & laughs. The lucky bachelor that chooses a date will get a voucher to one of the fine restaurants participating with the BU & Y-BU programs at CARES.

The purpose of The Datin' Gaymz is to offer Same Gender Loving Men another social outlet to meet in a non-club, or workshop atmosphere for fun, education and fellowship. This event will not be recorded or shown for personal gain. All participants must sign a waiver before they go on their date.



Men 24 & younger contact Y-BU Peer Coordinator Antyon Wallace at 259-4866 ext # 221 or by e-mail: awallace@nashvillecares.org

Men 25 & older contact BU Coordinator Dwayne Jenkins at 259-4866 ext # 269 or by e-mail: brosunited@aol.com


You, Me & He
United we stand
Divided we fall
It's a small world,
if you & your boyz
use protection, what
may go around with
one set of friends
should not stay
around with yours.
This photo may be hazy,
but the message isn't....
Use Condoms,
they do work!

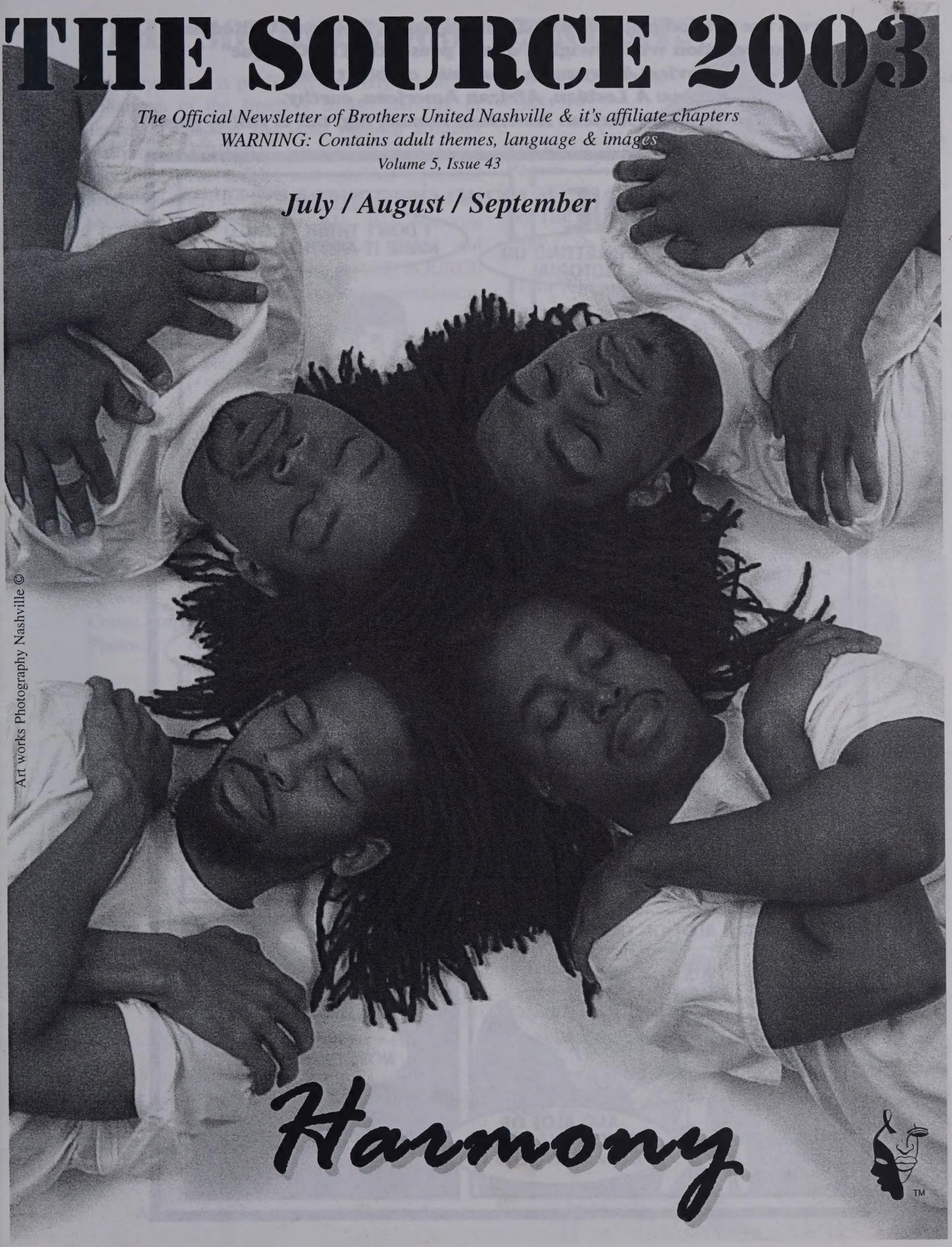
THE SOURCE 2003

The Official Newsletter of Brothers United Nashville & it's affiliate chapters

WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images

Volume 5, Issue 43

July / August / September



Art works Photography Nashville ©

Harmony

TM

From the retired pages of CLIKQUE Magazine, Brothers United, in cooperation with Dwight Powell, presents:"The Clikque"

Xavier: A gay male, Hispanic, clubby type.

Regina: A Lesbian, African American, earthy.

Victoria: Transgender African American female, big, tall & full of gags.

THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER© 1999/ 2003
HOME, FINALLY!
THANKS FOR LETTING US CRASH, VICTORIA!
I DON'T THINK I COULD MAKE IT ANOTHER STEP!
IT'S BEEN A HELLUVA SUMMER!
SURE HAS...LET'S SEE... MAY, WAS HOUSTON & DC...!
AND BACK TO NEW YORK IN AUGUST! AND FINALLY, ATLANTA IN SEPTEMBER!
NUEVA YORK IN JUNE...
L.A. IN JULY...AND DETROIT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?
THAT'S ALOT OF TRAVELING!
AND ALOT OF COINS,GIRL! I DON'T KNOW HOW I DID IT!
ZAP!
OH... NOW I KNOW.

THE SOURCE 2003

This newsletter is published quarterly for all the volunteers of the Brothers United Network of Tennessee chapters and other regional affiliates that provide HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and education. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by BU, BU Network Chapters or Nashville CARES. Names and pictures of persons appearing in THE SOURCE are no indication of sexual orientation.

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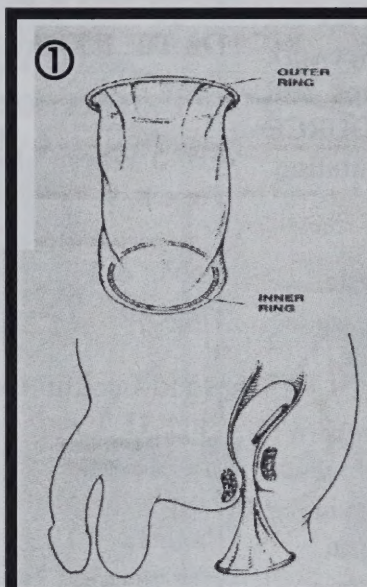
Bobby Jones for Brothas by Boula ©

BU Health & Wellness Corner

Providing info that covers topics concerning the anal, oral and genital hygiene & maintenance of Gay Men.

Condoms not your thing? Get a REALITY check!!

I've heard every reason in the book, "they don't feel right", "I forgot to get some", or the favorite for most, "it's too small to fit me baby..." My personal reply would simply be muthafuca Pah-leez! If you know what kind of clothes you like to sport or food you like to eat, I suggest your ass finds the proper brand of condom to wear; cuz if ya' can't come correct, you won't cum here! But since I can't expect others to be where I am, here is an alternate plan. It's been around for quite some time now so this will serve as a refresher for some. Although these polyurthane (plastic) condoms were made for a women, they are strong enough for a man! And yes I AM SURE (a commercial flashback for the old heads...) The directions are simple, wash your bootie out, stick it up and have at it. The insertive partner (the top) would not use a latex condom because the partner being penetrated (the bottom) is wearing the Reality condom which is protecting their anal walls and keeping them from sharing fluids. Once you're done throw it out and rest assured that you have had a safer sex experience. Okay, if that is not clear enough, here are the actual step by step instructions compliments of my co-worker Kevin Lawson, Coordinator of the Rainbow EDGE program. To insert vaginally replace the word Anal with vagina and insert in the front and not the back.



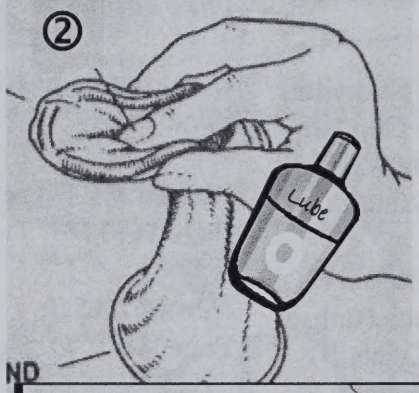
WHEN OPENING–DO NOT TEAR THE CONDOM WITH FINGER NAILS,TEETH, ETC. SEPARATE IT LIKE A BAG OF CHIPS

THIS TYPE OF CONDOM MAY PROTECT THE RECEPTIVE (BOTTOM). IT CAN BE INSERTED ANYTIME PRIOR TO HAVING SEX (EVEN HOURS BEFORE) AND IT WILL WARM UPON INSERTION.

PRACTICE HELPS TO USE THE INTERNAL CONDOM CORRECTLY.

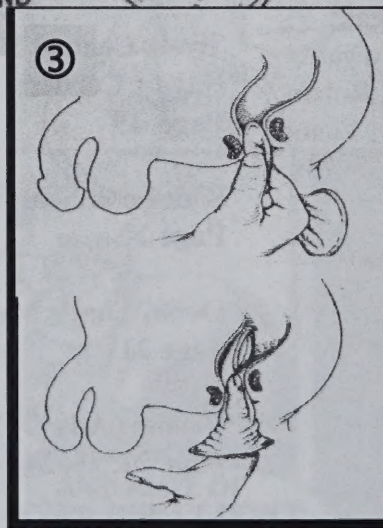
GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE CONDOM BEFORE USING IT SEXUALLY THE FIRST TIME INCREASES CORRECT USE AND ENHANCES PROTECTIVE FACTORS.

NOTICE THAT IT WILL HANG OUTSIDE OF THE ANUS.



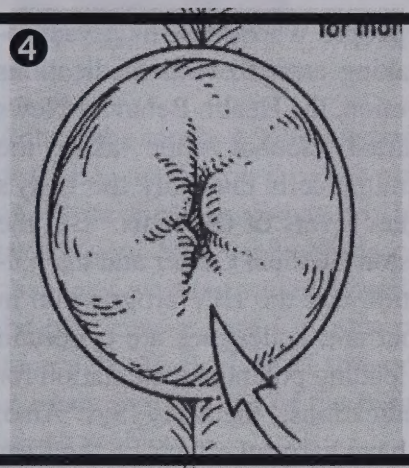
BEFORE USING, ENSURE THAT YOU INSPECT THE CONDOM. BE SURE THAT THE LUBRICATION IS SPREAD EVENLY INSIDE THE CONDOM. TO INSERT, HOLD THE INNER RING BETWEEN THUMB AND MIDDLE FINGER AND PLACE INDEX FINGER BETWEEN THE OTHER TWO AND THEN SQUEEZE. NORMALLY THE INNER RING IS USED TO COVER THE UTERUS. IF USING ANALLY IT MAY BE EASIER TO INSERT USING THE RING FIRST, AND THEN TAKE OUT BEFORE ACTUAL INTERCOURSE.

ND

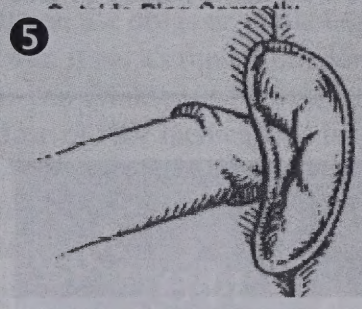


INSERTING CONTINUED...

WHILE STILL SQUEEZING THE INNER RING, INSERT THE DEVICE THROUGH THE **ANAL OPENING.** TAKE YOUR TIME, IF IT IS TOO SLIPPERY, LET IT GO AND START AGAIN. ONCE THE INNER RING IS IN THE ANAL OPENING, **PUSH** THE REST OF THE POUCH INTO THE CAVITY WITH YOUR INDEX FINGER. FOR MAXIMUM PROTECTION, THE INNER RING SHOULD BE INSERTED PAST THE SPHINCTER MUSCLE.

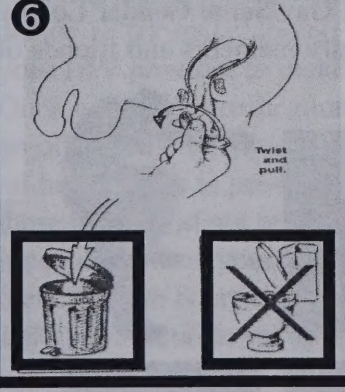


4 BEFORE **SEX**, INSERT THE DEVICE AS EXPLAINED BEFORE. NOTE THAT ABOUT ONE INCH OF THE OPEN END WILL **STAY OUTSIDE OF THE ANUS**. WHILE THIS MAY LOOK UNUSUAL–IT IS IN FACT PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR PARTNER. EACH CONDOM SHOULD ONLY BE USED ONCE, AND SHOULD NOT BE USED WITH A LATEX CONDOM. REMEMBER TO CHECK THE CONDOM DURING USE.

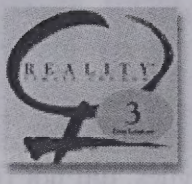


5 INSURE THAT THE INSERTIVE PARTNER GOES INTO THE CONDOM AND NOT ON THE SIDE AS THE PHOTO SHOWS. IF THE PENIS STARTS TO ENTER UNDERNEATH OR BESIDE THE DEVICE, **STOP AND REINSERT WITHIN THE CONDOM ITSELF.**

DURING SEX YOU MAY NOTICE THAT THE DEVICE MOVES AROUND. MOVING FROM SIDE TO SIDE OR **MOVING UP AND DOWN IN THE ANAL CAVITY** IS COMMON AND WILL NOT REDUCE THE PROTECTION SINCE IT IS STILL COVERING THE PENIS. BE CAREFUL AND STOP IF YOU OR YOUR PARTNER NOTICES THAT THE OUTER RING OF THE CONDOM HAS BEEN PUSHED IN TO THE ANAL CAVITY. THE OUTER RING MUST REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE ANUS THROUGH OUT THE SEXUAL ACTIVITY FOR PROTECTION TO BE AFFORDED.



6 WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, SQUEEZE AND TWIST THE OUTER RING TO KEEP ANY FLUID INSIDE THE POUCH. **PULL OUT GENTLY.** THIS CONDOM CAN NOT BE WASHED OUT. EACH MUST BE THROW AWAY IN A TRASH CAN. DO NOT FLUSH AND **DO NOT REUSE.**



This Reality Check is intended to educate both men and women about the alternate use of the Reality Condom, also known as the Female Condom. So the next time someone gives you a lame excuse or sob story reason why they don't want to use use protection, have them read this article and send them to any local drug or food store and pick up a box. The life you save may be your own!

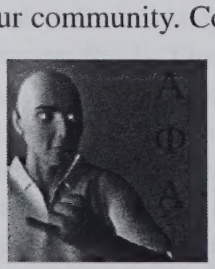
Drinking may speed up progression of HIV

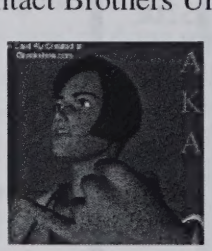
Staff & Wire, Southern VOICE 7/20/03

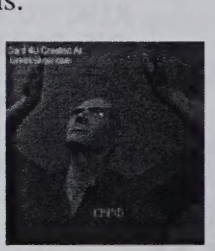
Boston- New research indicates people who drink moderate-to-high amounts of alcohol while taking antiretroviral medications risk faster progression of HIV infection, the Health Behavior News Service reported. Patients who drank alcohol while taking the drugs had lower levels of the immune cells that rally the body's defense against the virus and higher levels of the virus. But the report, by Jeffery H. Samet of Boston Medical Center and his colleagues, did not find a connection between alcohol consumption and the HIV progression in people who were not taking antiretroviral medications. Samet and colleagues are uncertain why the combination seems to speed up HIV's advance, "but a leading potential explanation for our findings is that alcohol use decreases adherence to HIV medications," the study says. Also, the report says alcohol and the antiretrovirals may combine to have harmful effects on the liver or immune system. The study examined 349 Boston-area patients who had a history of alcohol problems.

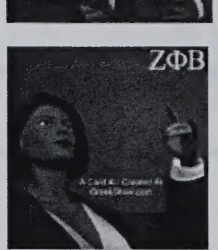
WANTED: AUTHENTIC PAN-HELLENIC GREEKS

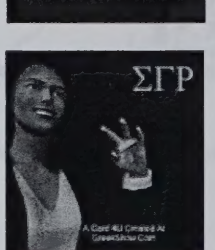
The Nashville Black PRIDE Team is trying to start our city's, or maybe the regions', first *alternative* Greek Step Squad. We are looking for individual members within authentic (meaning you either pledged an Undergraduate or Graduate Chapter and can provide proof of membership) Black Greek Organizations. Since we all know someone "in the life" who has pledged one of these Fraternities or Sororites, we wanted to bring them together to show their true colors. Our hope is to assemble at least one member from each, or as many of the following National Pan-Hellenic Council member organizations; Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Theta. Although we would prefer an all Gay/Same Gender Loving Team, we are open to heterosexual steppers that are supporters, family members and friends of our community. Contact Brothers United for more details.

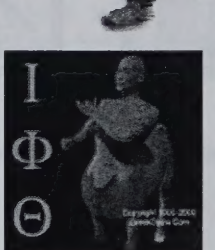




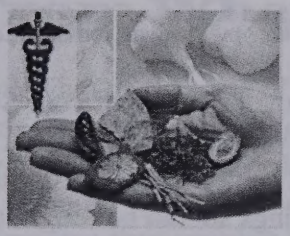








 Illustrations from www.greekshow.com & www.stompshow.com



On the Positive Tip

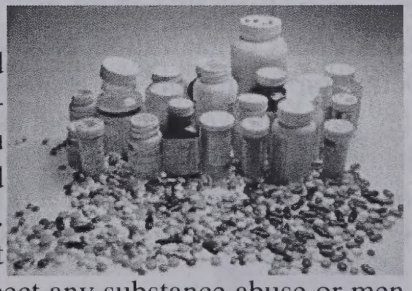
Mental Health & Substance Use Affect Adherence

www.PositiveWords.com ©2003 by Dallabrida & Associates.

Sandra K. Trisdale, Ph.D.,

Adherence means taking medications correctly. So why is adherence to HIV drugs such a big deal? Because if you miss too many doses, the virus in your body can change to avoid the effects of the medications. When this happens your medications can stop working. Studies show that taking your HIV medications correctly 95% of the time or greater, gives the drugs the best chance of working well to control your virus. Taking your medication correctly nearly 100% of the time can be hard for some obvious reasons, including too many doses per day or pills per dose, side effects, lack of support, food restrictions, simple forgetfulness or being too busy. But in many studies, two of the biggest reasons for non-adherence are substance abuse and mental health problems.

If you use drugs or alcohol excessively, you may skip doses because you are high, drunk or hung over. If so, it's time to cut down or clean up. Ask your physician or AIDS service agency for help. If you drink or use drugs, but are really good about adherence – for instance, you didn't miss a dose of HIV medications for the past month – it's still important to inform your physician about what you use, so that he/she can think about drug interactions, liver function tests, etc. Mental health issues can also keep you from taking your medications correctly. Depression is a key factor and is very common in HIV+ people. Other problems include bipolar illness (manic-depression), psychotic disorders (such as schizophrenia) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some of the warning signs for these conditions are: **Depression**: No energy, lack of enjoyment, short temper, sleep problems, no appetite and/or lack of sex drive. **Manic Phase of Bipolar Illness**: Feeling like you're on speed, too buzzed to sleep, shopping binges, sex binges and/or unclear or unrealistic beliefs. **PTSD:** Vivid "flashback" memories of traumatic incidents, nightmares about the past, being easily startled, avoidance of area where incident occurred and/or problems in personal relationships.



If you think you may have one of these conditions, the good news is that they are very treatable through therapy (either individual or group), medications or alternative treatments. If you decide to try medications, work with both a psychiatrist and your HIV provider to make sure there are no drug interactions. Once you go on medications for mental health problems, don't go off without close supervision. The bottom line? If you suspect any substance abuse or mental health issue is preventing you from taking your medications correctly, get help! Addressing these issues will not only make it more likely that you will be adherent to your HIV medications, it could improve your overall quality of life as well. If you need emotional & practical support, mental health counseling, or substance abuse treatment call the HEARTline at Nashville CARES 1-800-845-4266 to set up an appointment with our trained staff!

Resources:
NAMI at 800-950-NAMI or www.nami.org
SAMSHA at 800-729-6686 or www.samhsa.gov

From Where I Sit

by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor

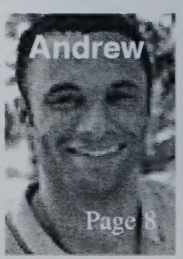
What's up Ya'll!? It has been a busy 90 + days since the last issue of your SOURCE news-mag-rag. Apoligies to you for not having this issue in your hands earlier, but without going into details and long excuses, let me simply say that it couldn't be helped this go'round. I appreciate the e-mails & calls and for the most part things should be caught up.

In April I was asked to speak at the 100th meeting of a group in Denver called Brothas 4 Ever (B4E). I know what your thinking...Black Gay/SGL Men living in Colorado? To my surprise these men had it going on! They had a plan and were definitely seeing it through. It was such an honor for me to speak to the B4E group not only to help inspire them to keep doing what they were doing in terms of the HIV/AIDS outreach, but also because they empowered me to continue to do the work in my own back yard. As a weekly venue, these men gather to educate and empower each other. Hats off to William, Scott, Harrison & and the Denver Department of Health. Even with the altitude you brothas better work got-dammit!!!

Back on Tennessee turf Nashville's Official J-Set Team, *The Soldierettes*, are continuing to show their spirit. With the help of Tamisha Iman, Show Director at the Connection Nashville, the fellas & new female member are holding it down. From those who don't know, J-Setting is a style of coreography that is similar to drill teams & marching bands without the instruments but with a "family flair". If you haven't seen it before stop through the club during Tamisha's Monday Nite Madness and watch the kids do their thang.

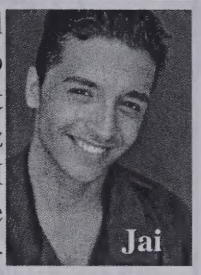
Nashville's first Black PRIDE Celebration has been scheduled for Halloween Weekend, Thursday October 30th through Monday, November 2nd. This is also Tennessee State Universtiy (TSU) Homecoming Weekend. I know, we couldn't have planned it better if we tried. Nash-vegas will be fagulously festive and we are expecting our folks to pack it out like never before. You can expect parties, live entertainment, workshops and other social gatherings. The Black PRIDE Team that has assembled is dedicated to make this first experience something to remember. Even though we may not be as established as our membercities within the International Federation of Black Prides Organization, Nashville intends to carve our spot along with the rest. The theme "By Our Own Definition" represents our teams effort to distinquish ourselves as a viable annual event within our community. Stay tuned and keep an eye out as the schedule becomes available. You can either check out our revamped website: www.brothersunited.com, call BU or Y-BU at Nashville CARES, or stop by Nashville's Gay owned and operated Department Store, OUTLOUD Books & Gifts. Don't be supprised when you see me up in there working either folks because that is also my part-time gig. Yes, I need ta' make some extra coinz chil-ren.

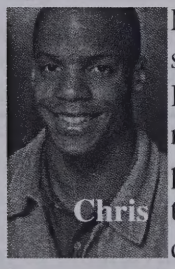
In an attempt to spawn off our own printed version of the reality show phenomenon, we have created a new section entitled "It's My House & I Live Here". For those that don't catch the line, we've lifted the chorus from an old Diana Ross song. After visting and talking with readers and friends, I realized that a lot of us, whether male or female, are really into decorating our living spaces. Many of you, like me, are fans of HGTV, TLC/Discovery and Oxygen shows like Trading Spaces, While You Were Out*, Designers Challange, Christopher Lowell, Surprise By Design, Home Matters, Debbie Travis' Painted House and Face Lift. As we watch the transformations, many also report watching the fellas (*Andrew ranked #1 in due-ness) in their tool belts & thangz. Although many viewers can catch an episode or two with Same Gender Loving folks, or have their radar go off with a few of the hosts, we pretty much don't get to show *our* world. Well, now you can! From the complicated and expensive to the simplist things like moving furniture, "It's My House & I Live Here" will feature you, our readers, giving helpful hints and showing off your spaces. Check out the first two men to share their spaces with us. (pages # 13-14)



From Where I sit Continued from page 8

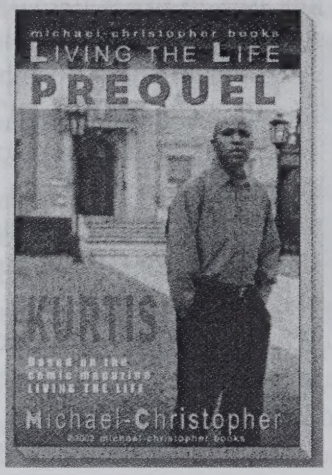
While I am on the topic of TV and reality shows, have any of you scene the new decorating/make over show on Bravo called *Queer Eye for a Straight Guy*? After the first two episodes I took a breathe and said, well I'll be dam! Out of all the f'n gay folk in my home city, New York, you mean to tell me that they couldn't find any people of color to balance the cast? Now don't get me wrong, I was happy to see our Hispanic brotha David "Jai" Rodriquez among the others four as, get this, the "Culture Expert", but pah-leez. Then as I watched the second show that followed, Jai was replaced by the guest "Culture Expert", Blair who was, to my delight, African American. Hhhmm the only two ethnic cast members get placed in the culture category...would that be type casting? But I digress... I am willing to watch a few more shows, just for GP, but kind of disappointed that the sponsors couldn't give us, their gay male viewers, a more diverse cast. Ya', know, one from other populations of color like Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American or Alaskan. They can't say there aren't any "out" people of color that are in the design, fashion or hairstylist fields in New York, because I lived there for over 20 years and know for a fact there are tons! I realize that it's all about the mighty dollar and what the market trends are, but I'm really tired of shows that represent Gay Life, excluding me over and over again. The second gay show that Bravo is airing is a dating show called "Boy Meets Boy". This is a match making show with a twist. One or a few of the men are straight and the viewers get to watch the betrayal unfold. After watching the first show I noticed one darker skinned bachelor named Chris (pictured left who also was eliminated-go figure) and another Latino looking brotha out of the entire group of 15 prospects. Yes, there may be others that I couldn't visually place in a specific ethnicity, but again, where all my peoples at? Okay, I'll stop here, but I know ya'll feel me don't cha? Check your local cable listing and let me know what you think.

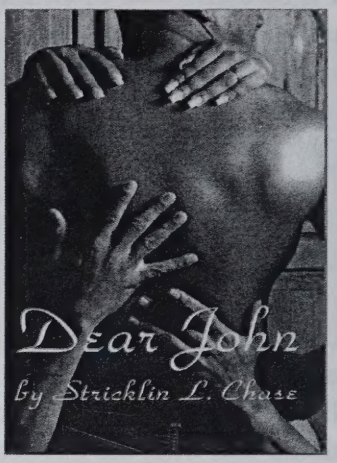

Jai


Chris

Back in the real world, I have come in contact with some amazing brothas during my travels these past few months. Most have been involved in HIV Prevention for many years, and others have just begun. There has been a swift and recent shift in the planning processes that will affect all agencies that receive funding from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention(CDC) to reach at risk target populations. As we, the providers, educators, care givers, and clients change the way we do things, it is important to let you, the community that we serve, know what is on the horizon. Decreasing the infection rate amoung Black Gay/SGL or otherwise unidentified men who have sex with other men is a hard damn thing to do. Over the years many of us in the field, and I bet plenty of you have heard excuses from friends and loved ones on the complexities of having safer sex. Is it really that hard when all is said and done to NOT be the squirrel just trying to get his nutt without protecting yourself? For those that have been diagnosed as having HIV, this shift I mentioned earlier is designed, for the most part, to reach you. Prevention for Positives will become our nations main objective and focus. It is the hope of CDC to reach those already infected to help stop the spread of HIV. While attending the Ujima Skills Building Institute sponsored by Jackson State University-Mississippi Urban Reach Center, the collective of participants were charged to become *Spin Doctors* and put on da remix to survive this shift in thinking and planning. Knowledge is power chil-ren, don't let the efforts of those who have worked across this nation to save, extend, and enhance the quality of our lives go in vain. Please get involved in this fight and learn what needs to be done. One way you can help is to live by example and get tested, and persuade others you love to know their status as well. After 25 + years, we can't keep expecting others (whether it be your good Judy, the Government or CDC) to continue to finance projects if our rates continue to increase & not decrease. Even though some say that train has left the station, from where I sit everyone still has 50 cents in theri pockey for a emergency call and a token to get on at the next stop.

Books Brothers is on Summer Break. Feel free to continue to read one our suggested titles like, "Got To Be Real - 4 Love Stories" by Harris, Dickey, Channer, & Major. We look forward to seeing you in a few months!





Thursday, September 18
"Living The Life Prequel- Kurtis"
by Michael-Christopher

Thursday, October 16
"Dear John"
by Strickland L. Chase

6:30-8:30 PM at Nashville CARES

Remember the old saying, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste". Turn off the tv & radio, put down the video games, and pick up a book, magazine or comic! You don't know what you're missing!

Official Book Club Members receive an additional 20% off the book of the month compliments of our host store OUTLOUD Department Store. Most all of the videos shown at the Filmz presentations are also available to rent at OUTLOUD. Our purpose for reading literature and showing a movie each month is to offer African American Same Gender Loving Men, Women, partners and friends a different type of social outlet that is both non-threatening and educational. Discussions of the books and films are provocative, entertaining, and sometimes emotional. Free parking, snacks, popcorn, and beverages are always available. Each takes place at Nashville CARES. Bring a friend & make new ones!

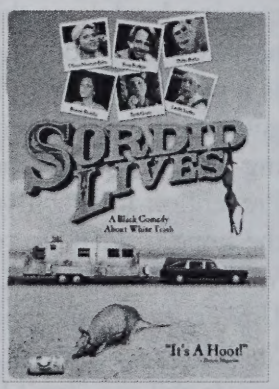
FOR OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY
OUTLOUD!
NASHVILLE'S GAY & LESBIAN DEPARTMENT STORE
1709 Church St Nashville TN 37203

8 PM
Saturday, August 23

"Normal" *

8 PM Saturday,
September 20

"Far From Heaven"



8 PM Saturday,
October 18

"Sordid Lives"

** Special thanks to the Safekow/Chandler Library for lending us copies from your personal collection of cable films that are not yet released on home video.*

Gender Dilemma: Inmates Who Look Like Women, Housed With Men

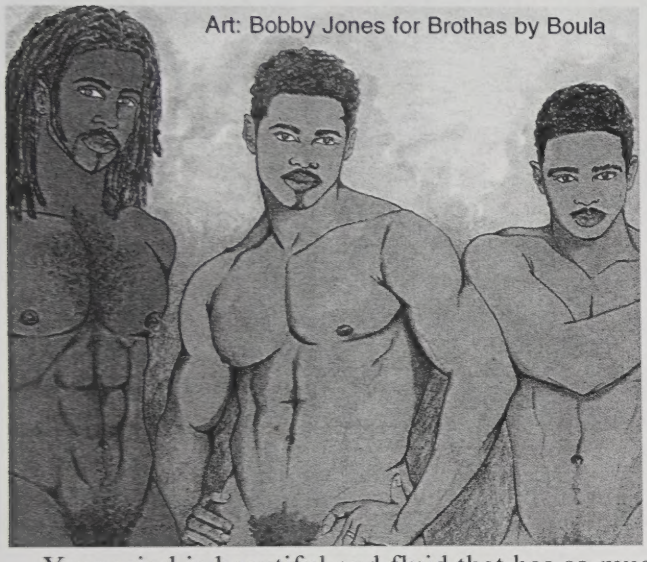
By Oliver Libaw, ABCnews.com

In January of 2003, with fully developed breasts, long hair and feminine features, Kelly McAllister is not the sort of person you'd expect to find sharing a cell with a male prisoner. But that's exactly where the 5-foot, 7-inch, 135-pound prisoner was housed after being arrested in connection with an alleged public disturbance, a lawyer representing McAllister says. McAllister is a "preoperative transsexual" - anatomically male, but living as a woman and undergoing feminine hormone treatment. The Sacramento Sheriff's Department classified McAllister as a male, however. "They classified her as him and put him in protective custody. Then they put her in cell with a straight male inmate," said McAllister's lawyer, Dean Johansson. "There's no wonder why what happened happened." Johansson claims that McAllister was violently sexually assaulted by the other inmate, and then received little help after the incident, which allegedly occurred last September. Sgt. Lou Fatur, of the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, said the claim was without merit, but declined to comment further. He said the department's policy was to put transgender and homosexual prisoners in facilities apart from the general jail population. "They're separated and protected," he said. No one knows how many "transgender" inmates are in the nation's prisons and jails.

The term itself is a catch-all used to refer to many different groups, says Vanessa Edwards Foster, the head of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. But it is clear to advocates and prison system experts that transgendered inmates are particularly vulnerable to abuse and assault, in part because they are routinely housed with inmates in the general prison population. "I would say there probably is a serious problem, especially with preoperative transsexuals," says Christopher Hensley, a sociology professor at Morehead State University and director of the Institute of Correctional Research and Training there. Most prisons have some form of "administrative segregation" for some inmates, but the facilities typically involve reduced privileges and are more expensive to run, Hensley says. [Harrowing Stories, Clear Data] A number of harrowing reports have reached the courts and newspapers, though it is often impossible to confirm the allegations. "There seems to be an institutional problem," says McAllister's lawyer, Johansson. Prison officials like Russ Heinmerich, a spokesman for the California Department of Corrections, say there is no such dilemma. "If they've had the operation, they go to the appropriate [suitable for their new gender] facility," he says. "In the meantime [male-to-female transgender inmates] are housed with the male population."

As in some other states, inmates already receiving hormone treatment are allowed to continue, he says, and prison officials take extra precautions with vulnerable inmates. "Any inmate that is likely to become victimized for any reason we'll put in protective housing," he says. Most states do not have transgender prison facilities, however. New Hampshire prison officials and attorneys for convicted murderer Joseph Shanley are still arguing over where to house him. Shanley had sexual reassignment surgery in 1969 and asked to be housed in a women's prison. Although many lawsuits have been filed, with mixed results, transgender inmates and prison officials have repeatedly sparred in court over their treatment. In August, a Canadian transgender person filed a multimillion-dollar suit against U.S. and Montana officials, claiming abuse. Alexandria Tucker, a self-described preoperative male-to-female transsexual, was allegedly sexually assaulted while housed in Montana's prison for men. Montana prisons officials have said the case is without merit and that the prison made adequate arrangements for Tucker's safety. Such lawsuits have had mixed results in the past. Last May, a U.S. district court jury in Ohio ruled against Traci Greene, a transgender inmate who sued the state. Greene's lawyers alleged their client was severely beaten by another inmate at the all-male Warren Correctional Institution in southwest Ohio in 1996. Officials had originally classified Greene as a woman, but then moved Greene to the male facility when they learned the inmate was anatomically male and undergoing hormone treatments. Despite a size 36-D bust and other feminine characteristics, Greene was still theoretically capable of impregnating females, officials said during the trial.

In a 1994 case brought by a transgender inmate named Dee Farmer, the Supreme Court ruled that prison officials must protect inmates from sexual attack. The plaintiff, a pre-operative transgender inmate serving time for credit card fraud, alleged repeated sexual assault while housed with a group of male prisoners. The problem of sexual abuse in prisons goes far beyond the transgender population, of course. More than 200,000 men are raped behind bars each year, according to the group Stop Prisoner Rape. Hensley, the Morehead State University researcher, says research has found that between 14 percent and 22 percent of male inmates are subjected to sexual violence or threats.


Art: Bobby Jones for Brothas by Boula

For The Brothers

In a word you are…Beautiful
In two words you are…Beautiful Black
In three words you are…Beautiful Black Man

I have known you since birth and throughout childhood, through adolescence and now adulthood.

I have seen you at your lowest and at your most high, and the in between.

Your mind is beautiful and fluid that has so much story to tell, and it is through patience that I wait to hear you tell me your story.

Your physical body is poetry in motion and what a body it is, your face, chest, arms, legs, ass, dick, and feet, are beautiful to behold.

There is a shared history between us and know that when I look into your eyes I know that you will understand.

I know you as you know me and that brings comfort to me especially in these times when there is talk of war not just outside the United States but also internally.

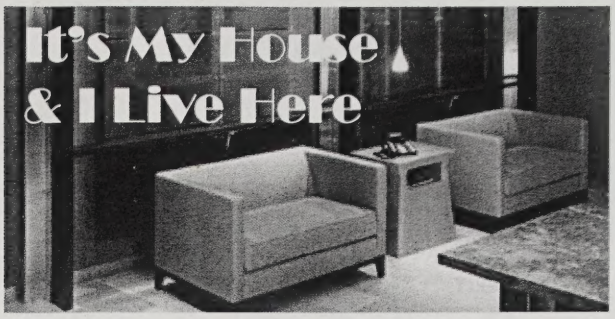
We're dying from complications of AIDS, we have a higher rate of prostate cancer in our men, we are incarcerated, we are drug users and drug pushers, absentee fathers, we are killing ourselves and it needs to stop.

On the other side of that coin we are doing it as we are on the Forbes List, heading Fortune 500 corporations, starting our own businesses, going back to school to get that piece of paper, taking care of our children, women, and each other.

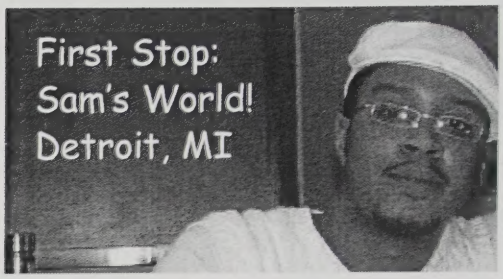
We are running for President of these United States, we are Secretary of State, we are becoming owners of a basketball team, we are turning golf around and showing that its not just a white man's sport.

Let us help each other as we have been down for far too long…

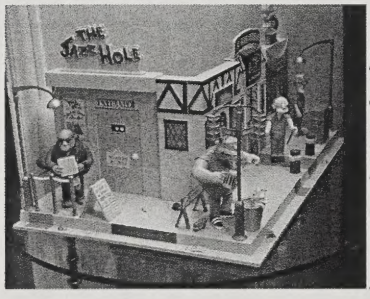
F. Justin Hall
13 March 2003



If there is one place that most of us can go to relax, relate, & release, that place would be home. This new column was developed for our readers to share how our living spaces can also keep us healthy mentally, physically & spiritually.



This former Tennessean has recently joined the SCAA, Simpsons Collectable Addicts Association. He, like I, have refused to remain anouymous and come clean to help each other & heal others like us. We knew we were both over the edge after we'd call each other from different Toys R Us in our seperate cities trying to find out who had what in stock. Not to mention our looking out for each other on e-Bay and purchasing things for each other when someone even looked interested at it. This small glimsp into his world may encourage you to admit and share yours...



1. When did you begin your decorating journey? *I began collecting the Simpson's over a year ago. I can't really call it decorating, cause I had no idea when I started it that it would take over so much of life and time. Why didn't you warn me?*

2. How does your space/collection make you feel? *Hmmm, if I had to sum it up in one word, I think it would have to be---geek (lol). Seriously, my toys really make me happy. Also since they are toys I kinda feel young at heart. Proud of myself cause I can find joy in some of the simplest things. Life has so many serious notes that it's enjoyable to go to another level.*

3. Finish this song from The WIZ..."when I think of home, I... *think of a place where love is overflowing, where I have so many Simpson's toys, I do know where they are going.*

4. If you were able to add something to your space/collection that is out of your range, what would it be? *That's hard cause I not sure what I'd like to add. I will say how I have this weird thought, countless times, that if I win the lottery, I will go out and buy everything that ever came out with the Simpson's on it. That's pretty sad.*

5. What is your advice to others that are into decorating or collecting? *One thing that I had to learn was not to stress over getting the collection complete. Be willing to wait for things, so you don't go into serious debt, cause it can add up; Quickly.*

6. What is the most special place/item in your space in your collection and why? *I would have to say my Homer at the Nuclear Plant environment because it makes me smile and sometimes laugh without me even touching it to play his voice. Homer is my idol, nuff said.*

It's My House & I Live Here

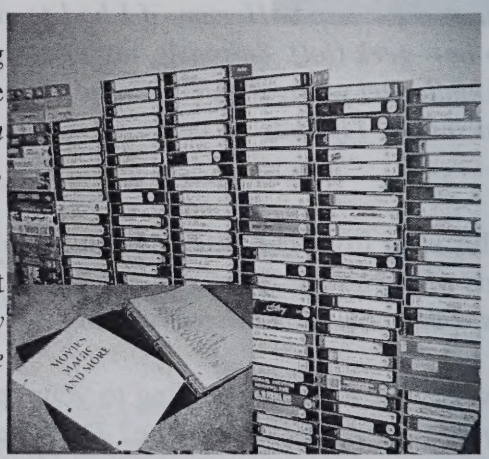
Continued from Page # 13

Second Stop:
Dr. Terry
Nashville, TN

It's all about organization for this brotha. Not only is his entire vinyl albums / 45's, CDs, DVDs and video inventory in alphabetical order and numbered, but he also has each one logged in a book to find when needed at the drop of a dime. Come along and see how keeping things in their proper place can not only change your life, but also your mind body and soul.

1. When did you begin your decorating journey? *I began decorating when I was in college. My roommate didn't mind and I went for it. Along with the posters and lights, I even had matching bed sheets for us.*

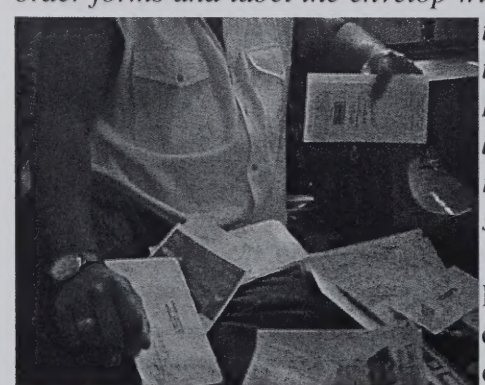
2. How does your space/collection make you feel? *Being organized makes me feel comfortable. Plus, since a lot of my friends like to hear music from my CD and vinly collection, it makes it easier to find things, especially when you are drinking and carrying on.*



3. Finish this song verse..."when I think of home I... *Think of a relaxing, fun filled place to eat, drink, entertain and have sex in.*

4. If you were able to add something to your space/collection, what would it be? *One of the things I would like to get is a hot tub for my deck area. It's funny you asked me that today because I actually have a person coming later to give me an estimate.*

5. What is your advise to others wanting to do something to their space? *In my opinion people should decorate to their personality. Don't feel like you have to go with others or keep up with other people's style. You also don't want to go into debt to get what you want. Make a goal, save and then get what you want. Since I like ordering from catalogs, I have a special file made up of things I have to save for. I fill-out the order forms and label the envelop with the amount needed,but keep what the actual item was itself a mystery. When I have the money, I grab one or a few envelops and mail those girls out. Even though I know the merchandise is something that I wanted when I initially looked at it, it's a great feeling when all these boxes arrive and I have no idea what it is. I am always surprised and rarely get refunded because an item is no longer available. The way I see, if I get it ...cool, if not, it wasn't for me to have.*



During my chat with Dr. Terry at his home, he showed me his file of envelopes. It was truly amazing. He was about to mail a few off that day and as you can see by the photo, he had plenty more to go.

Official Black Pride Listings August - October 2003

BLACK UNITY PRIDE
CLEVELAND, OH
AUGUST 1-3, 2003

ST. LOUIS BLACK GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE
AUGUST 1-3, 2003

JACKSONVILLE FlORIDA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 8 -10, 2003

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 14 - 17, 2003

ATLANTA BLK GAY PRIDE
AUGUST 29-
SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

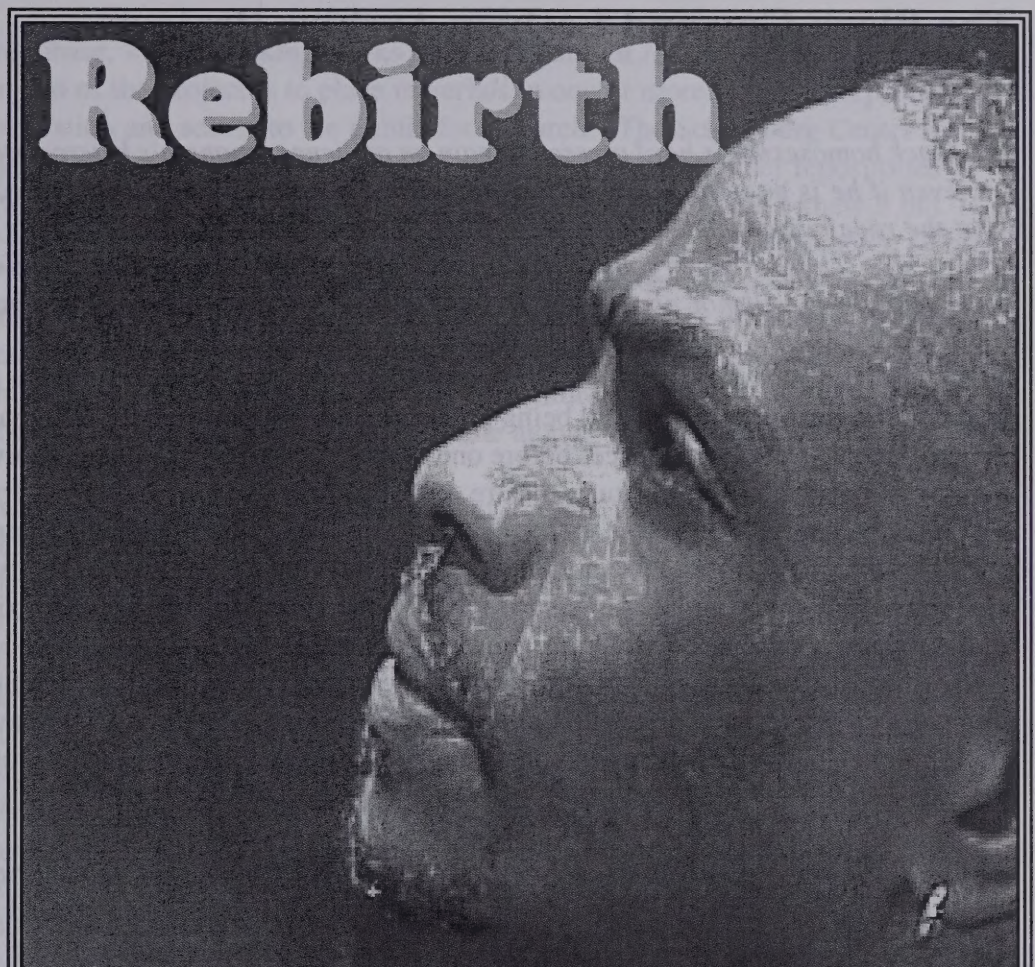
DALLAS BLACK GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE
OCTOBER 3 -5, 2003

BALTIMORE BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 10-12, 2003

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 10-11, 2003

SOUTH AFRICA BLK PRIDE
OCTOBER 26-
NOVEMBER 1, 2003

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 30 -
NOVEMBER 2, 2003



Brothers United Nashville
Winter Retreat VII
Montgomery Bell State Park
December 4 - 7, 2003

The registration fee per person is $195 before September 1st & $225 after. Limited Scholarships are available upon request on a first come first serve basis. This cost includes six buffet style "all you can eat" meals, lodging, commemorative t-shirt, workshops & entertainment. Burns, TN is located 50 miles outside of Nashville. We are expecting between 80-100 Men

(615) 259-4866 / (800) 845-4266 Ext # 269
brosunited@aol.com / www.brothersunited.com

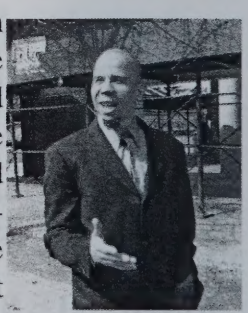
The Black Gay and Lesbian Archive Project

By Sanford E. Gaylord

The Black homosexual is hard pressed to gain an audience among his heterosexual brothers; even if he is more talented, he is inhibited by his silence or his admissions. This is what the race has depended on in being able to erase homosexuality from our recorded history. The "chosen" history. But these sacred constructions of silence are futile exercises in denial. We will not go away with our issues of sexuality. We are coming home. - From Loyalty by Essex Hemphill

As long as humankind has been on the planet earth, from the time that primitive drawings were part of life, to the tradition of oral histories that are still being practiced today in some cultures, humankind has always sought to retell the stories of their lives or experiences before one or more persons. As we have evolved throughout the past millenniums, we have been able to use literature, theatre, radio, film, television, and the Internet to tell those stories or create stories of other human beings as a source of affirmation, education, and entertainment. The twentieth century has had some of the greatest milestones in the history of humankind. Throughout the history of literature and other means of communication, many people thought to question the validity, even the very existence of Gay Culture or Gay sensibilities. Many choose to overlook or ignore the contributions of Gay culture because we live in a culture that raises us to be heterosexual, which may not always achieve the desired result. United States society is bombarded with daily reminders of heterosexual life with the use of mass media devices. We are shown and instructed in some cases, the most intimate interactions between consenting adults, to the basic interactions of parents and the way they choose to raise their children.

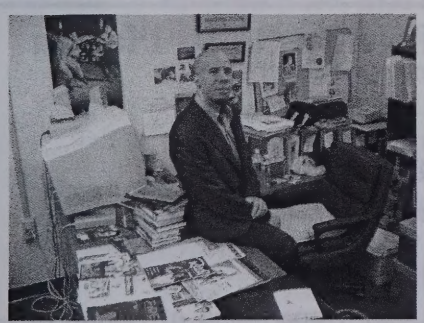
In the not so distant past, Gay society was characterized by isolation, self-hatred, and subterfuge. I believe that it is the closeted underground living, which produces a subculture. When the Gay subculture has been presented in the past, when it was there at all, it was usually a heterosexual distorted view. The roles were frivolous fairies, psychotic bull dykes or some suicidal man or woman. Having non-stereotypical representations of Gay culture and society grace the pages of books or the stage and reach mainstream society has been long in the making. We can always look at the past as an example and lesson on how we should lay the foundation for the future. As long as there have been writers and playwrights, LGBT people have either contributed (sometimes closeted) directly or behind the scenes. Just as in mainstream US society, there is noted behavior that questions the validity of Gay Culture, the efforts of people of African decent are also questioned and in some cases have been erased from mainstream society. Within the culture of people of African decent, there are those that identify as LGBT or Same-Gender-Loving (SGL) and if you were to try and research information about writers, actors or activists and the contribution to US society as a whole, what you will find may vary due to location be it urban or rural.



In 1999, Steven G. Fullwood, Manuscripts Librarian at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at New York Public Library was researching a grant to process the records of the community-based organization Gay Men of African Decent (GMAD). "I was sadly disappointed at the lack of representation on black non-heterosexual culture. Sure there were books. There were even a few manuscript collections, but overall the documentation of works was scarce and extremely limited by format," said Fullwood. This event was the catalyst for Fullwood; he founded the Black Gay and Lesbian Achieve (BGLA) in 2000, a project designed to facilitate the preservation of black gay and lesbian history. " I feel, as a community, we must consciously put our records down and take the preservation of our legacy one step further," said Fullwood. There are two phases to the BGLA. The first phase, already executed, is the gathering of materials, which includes non-fiction, biographies, novels (including erotica), dramatic works, poetry, and plays. Posters and ephemera are also sought for the archive. In addition to ephemera including flyers, palm cards, and broadsides produced in the US and other countries in our global community are a welcome additon to the project. Fullwood is also collecting photographs, prints, moving images and recorded sound consisting of film, audio, and videotape materials.

The BGLA, while in its collecting phase, will be seeking works by and about SGL/LGBT people of African decent until the year 2005. Phase two of the project is to place materials in one or more reputable repositories for the expressed purpose of preservation and access to the public for research. "The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has agreed to house the archive. I am in communication with other repositories to develop similar initiatives," Fullwood said. "I can actually say that the archive started before I knew it did. I recall as a kid reading *Go Tell It On the Mountain* and I remember the scene where the main character, Gabriel, was wrestling with an older boy in church. Gabriel was clearly smitten with the older boy and it struck me as a very important moment in my life. I collected James Baldwin's works and by the 1980's, there were plenty of writers producing works. I was curious about what my life was supposed to be about as a man who intimately and sexually loved other men, and there were literally no records of our culture in the libraries and bookstores until writers like Audre Lorde, Essex Hemphill, and Joseph Beam came along," Fullwood said.

When the BLGA commenced, Fullwood expressed that among the first to make a donation was writer Jewelle Gomez, who may be known best for her science fiction novel, *The Gilda Stories*, made a donation of all of her books, essays, articles and photographs. Gregory D. Victorianne, creator of Buti Voxx, made a significant contribution of books, broadsides, flyers, magazines, and newsletters. Firebrand Books donated publications by Shay Youngblood, Cheryl Clarke, and Pat Parker. Alan Bell, editor of KujiSource donated an entire run of BLK, along with copies of Blackfire, Black Lace, and Kumba. Cornelius Moore, Director of African Cinema at California Newsreel, contributed copies of MOJA, the first black gay and lesbian-oriented newspaper, and Marlon Riggs's last film *Black Is Black Ain't*. Lisa C. Moore, founder of Red Bone Press contributed copies of *Does Your Mama Know: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories*, and *The Bull Jean Stories* by Sharon Bridgeforth. Thomas Glave, author of the short story collection *Whose Song and Other Stories* donated copies of his book and other materials. Charlene Cothran, editor-in-chief and publisher of Venus Magazine, activist Anthony Hardaway, both made contributions consisting of books, broadsides, flyers, journals, magazines, and programs. London-based photographer and activist Ajamu has donated his photographs and his own archive project, Ruckes!, a black queer arts organization. Dirg Aab Richards, poet and activist donated copies of *The Voice- Great Britain's Black* newspaper and *Capital Gay* which contained articles about his organization's fight to combat homophobia in the UK. Files for organizations, articles, and various events concerning LGBT/SGL people native to Nigeria and South Africa are also included in the BLGA.



The BGLA's main objective is threefold. "The archive will provide worldwide access to a comprehensive collection of information about black LGBT/SGL Queer life through various media. Scholars and casual researchers will be able to construct long overdue histories about the black LGBT/SGL community for academic and personal use," Fullwood said. Collecting, reviewing, and cataloging materials donated is a full time job for Fullwood along with promoting the BLGA. "People are donating materials, volunteering their time to build the collection by working to compile contact lists, helping to locate grant monies and generally being extremely supportive," said Fullwood. The twentieth century has had some of the greatest milestones in the history of humankind. Throughout the history of literature and other means of communication, many people thought to question the validity, even the very existence of Gay Culture. It's up to all of us to illuminate what could be a bumpy road for our youth, our brotha's, sistah's and our children. We need to lay the foundation for those that follow us.

If you would like more information about the Black Gay and Lesbian Archive Project or wish to contribute, please contact Steven G. Fullwood at 12 West 130th Street, #3, New York, New York, 10037, or reach him at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at 212-491-2224 or e-mail him at bglanyc@yahoo.com

I speak for thousands; perhaps hundreds of thousands of men who live and die in the shadows of secrets, unable to speak of the love that helps them endure and contribute to the race. -From Loyalty by Essex Hemphill

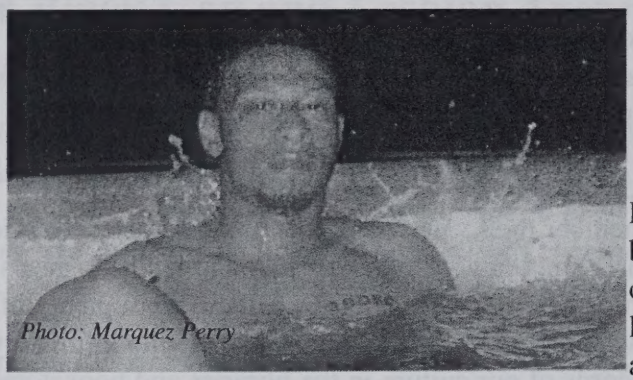


Photo: Marquez Perry

An Ejaculation a Day May Keep Prostate Cancer at Bay

July 2003 SYDNEY (Reuters)

Frequent masturbation may be really good for you Research by Australia's Cancer Council Victoria found that the more often men ejaculate between the ages of 20 and 50, the less likely they are to suffer the disease that kills more than half a million men each year.

The survey of 1,079 prostate cancer (news - web sites) patients and 1,259 healthy men found that those who masturbated or had sex at least once a day in their 20s were a third less likely to develop the malady. "For men in their 50s of course that's often not achievable," Graham Giles, who led the research team, told Reuters on Thursday. "(But) masturbation isn't bad for you. I don't believe in the blindness and hairy palms theory. Prohibitions against ejaculations are not based on science," he said.

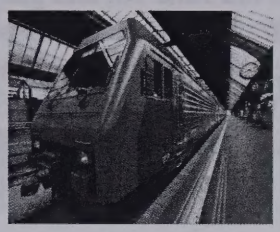
The study, conducted between 1994 and 1998 but still being analysed, did not focus specifically on masturbation. Nevertheless, it was the largest so far to ask participants not just about their sexual relations but also about masturbation, and to analyse the answers. They suspect that frequent ejaculation has a protective effect against the cancer because it prevents dangerous carcinogens from building up in the gland. "The more you flush the ducts out, the less there is to hang around and damage the cells that line them," Graham Giles, of the Cancer Council Victoria in Melbourne, told New Scientist magazine on Wednesday. Giles said the findings correlate with previous research that showed Roman Catholic priests were 30 percent more likely to get prostate cancer, but they contradict other studies that suggested having a variety of partners or frequent sex could lift the risk. "Men have many ways of using their prostate which don't involve women or other men," he added.

One theory that could explain the new results is that semen may have a carcinogenic effect on the cells lining the prostatic ducts if not flushed regularly out of the pipes by ejaculations. The research is due to be published in this weekend's British Journal of Urology International.

5 People Charged With Knowingly Selling Their HIV-Positive Blood Plasma

[Jul 21, 2003]

Officials in Marion County, Ind., charged five people with allegedly selling their blood plasma despite knowledge of their HIV-positive status -- the first such cases in the county, the Indianapolis Star reports. The infected plasma, which was sold to two Indianapolis blood collection centers over the past two years, was identified through routine HIV testing, according to Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi and state Department of Health officials. Under state law, knowingly transferring contaminated body fluids is a Class C felony, and the five suspects, who received $20 per collection, could face two to eight years in prison if convicted. Brizzi said that the suspects lied about their HIV-positive status and "put thousands at risk" as a result, according to the Star. Health officials waited until the plasma centers confirmed that the suspects were the plasma suppliers, then they filed charges with the prosecutor's office, according to Michael Butler, director of the state health department's Division of HIV/STD. Roger Rayl, spokesperson for the prosecutor's office, said that additional charges could follow, particularly if investigators discover that the individuals sold their plasma more than once while they knew their HIV-positive status. Although Brizzi said that he thinks that laws regarding HIV-positive people knowingly putting others at risk should be stronger, Butler said, "My greatest concern is if individuals start seeing behaviors related to being aware of your HIV status as being the subject of criminal action, then individuals will just stop being tested. Then we have the problem of not just one person's personal health, but the risk of their exposing numbers of other individuals to the virus" (Kightlinger, Indianapolis Star, 7/18).



Tranz-Central Station

Welcome aboard our world

What's up everybody!? Hope you're enjoying your summer and staying safe. Like Nelly says its getting HOTT IN HERE or rather it's already HOTT. For you library (Adult Book Store) Queens who like to hang out, your after hours spot time is going to be cut short come August 1st due to a new city ordinance. This rule will require all 24-hour book store locations to cut their business hours and close by 12 midnight. This means you better do your cruising and get your freak on before you go to the club, because they will be closed by the time the club is over. This ordinance also requires each Adult Book & Video Store to be closed on Sundays and major holidays. What's a Queen to do?., or rather where is a Queen to go? Congratulations to Ms. Mya Campbell, the newly crowned Ms. Black Tenneessee USA. You did an excellent job and deserve your win gurl! The summer is such a great time to do so many great things such as traveling, hanging out with friends, going to the beach or going to a fabulous Gay Pride in the city of your choice. As for me, I'm traveling to my hometown of Detroit for their Black Gay PRIDE where I know it's going to be a blast. All and all the summer has started out by being good and hopefully will end in the same manor. So as usual, keep the shade to a minimum and smooches, see you later!

Naya's Corner: *On the Brink of a new Horizon*

The views expressed are solely those of Ms. Naya Waters and do not reflect that of Nashville CARES or Brothers United. This section is provided for empowerment and entertainment purposes only. Letters & e-mails are strongly encouraged. All the responses are Real! If you don't agree with huh', respond again...she lives for it!

Dear Naya: Thanks for writing an honest opinion on meeting people in the park. I too have met a few guys that promised the world. If I would've waited for them like they wanted, I would be one mean old bastard! My question is simply, where in Nashville can a single Black Gay man find another man to meet for something longer than a squirt in a book store or behind a bush? I have heard that the 24 hour Walmart was a good site after midnight, but each time I go it's earlier and all I get is either eye candy or real food. - Looking 4 Love

*Dear Looking: Chile, don't you think if I knew where to find a man, I would be there with him instead of writing to you? Honestly, that place really doesn't exist. You can try bookstores or chat lines, but what is the real likelihood that you, a man of quality, will find another quality guy at these places? Exactly, none! Now, let's talk about this Wal*Mart thing! Did you really go there to find a man? Tell me you didn't... who in the hell told you such a thing? Was there a town meeting with this discovery that I didn't hear about? Unless you need a man to assist you in hardware, don't you dare take your ass back to Wal Mocks! You are going about this all wrong. First, look at your friends or family that are in healthy relationships. Then ask questions and take notes like how and where did they met. You will probably find that not only did they not meet in Wal*Mart, but that they met under regular everyday circumstances. They were not looking for love, but love found them. Think about it, how often do you look for something and find it? What you find is everything else that you weren't looking for like that old pair of handcuffs, used condoms under the bed, old boyfriends in the closet, etc. My second pointer is for you to look within and find yourself. Take some time out in your search and be totally secured with the person you find yourself to be. Once that is done, you will be ready for love and Mister Right when he makes himself known to you. Be patient, and stay out of Wal*Mart dammit!*

Soul Food Seasonings

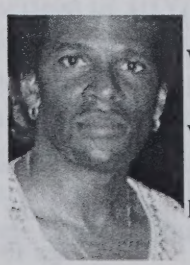
Tasty servings to elevate your mind & spirit

I am an odd duck! I will be 36 years old June 18, and guess what? I am a work in progress, and I firmly believe that the work God has begun for me, HE will complete. I say that I am an odd duck because I was recently approached at one of the trolley stations in San Diego by a brotha from Chicago, who's only been in the city for about four months. As a Gemini, my mind and conversation can go up to five different directions at the same time, but I promise, it will all tie together.

As I was standing at the trolley stop playing Black jack on my cellular phone, the brotha stepped to me and asked what the significance was of me wearing a white gold ring on the third finger of my left hand. I gave him two explanations: the first was that I considered the ring a symbol of self-love. If I waited for a brotha to give me anything, I'd be collecting social security. The second explanation I gave him was that in the military, the significance of a ring on that particular finger meant that the brotha (or sista) had a significant other, meaning he/she had a lover.The conversation then shifted to him asking me what fraternity I pledged, and I responded the first and the finest. He shared with me that he was also part of a fraternal organization. Then he noticed that I was wearing another ring on the fourth finger of my right hand, and he asked what I was wearing that one for. I told him my ex-lover Rico (God rest his soul), gave it to me right before he passed in '99. It is a symbol of our commitment to one another.

The conversation shifted again, and me being the quick, intelligent bruh that I am, I knew this out-of-towner, was going to start preaching! But I get ahead of myself. He then asked me if I was always so straight forward about my sexuality, and I was like, my sexuality? Which by Webster's definition means, "the condition of being characterized by sex (male/female); concern with or interest in sexual activity; the quality of having a sexual character or potency. I had to school ol' boy that even though I am quite comfortable in who and what I am (many things), I do not walk down the center of town waving a flag or using a bullhorn proclaiming that he world that I like dick and ass. Next thing I know, bruh pulls out this Bible, and tells me that I am wrong! Hold up, hold up, stop the damn presses! Did bruh know I had been taking boxing classes and was ready to go into a battle stance? You know this bruh had the nerve to tell me that God does not want me to be gay? If I weren't gay, I told him, I do not think I would be as compassionate or empathic as I am, and that God created me exactly the way he wanted me to be, which is sexy as all get with my 28" waist, slender but muscular build, red juicy lips, and a 5'5 stature. He said that was all genetics, which I agree with, but you know, when the good Lord put that spark with my momma and daddy, he knew what he was doing. And I also pointed out to him that God created mental illness for others to diagnose and treat, that he created people to be geniuses and mentally retarded, athletic and clumsy. Not all of that is genetic! Or how else can one explain how some multiple family members are gay or lesbian?

Anyway, the discussion then was led to spirituality, which, is what this article is about. (Told ya' I was going to tie all this together) At 36, I am exactly where I am supposed to be...I tell people that I celebrate my birthday the entire month of June by traveling, reading books, experiencing new restaurants, and taking a class to improve me. As I approach my forties, my spirituality has gotten stronger. I've matured, and I really have no regrets other than not being in a relationship. My spirituality is a combination of all the people who have come into life and enriched it, enhanced it, or tried to wreck it. I learned from them all. I explained to the bruh from Chicago that man-made religious laws are always designed to benefit the man that makes them or interprets them as his own. The question I had to answer for myself a long time ago was do I accept living in somebody else's law or do I find the truth that celebrates me? As my birthday gift to you, I have something to pass along to you: It is not important to judge others by the laws they create and interpret for themselves. Judge only the laws that you interpret for yourself.Black gay men are not abominations. It's like someone calling us stupid, and we know we aren't!

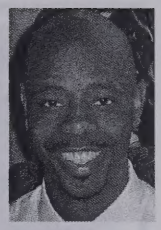


We are highly evolved. Look where we came from. Remember our history!

We are spirits expressing God's will...HE created us exactly the way we were meant to be!

Richard Charlton Jones can be reached at blkgoldshawty06@yahoo.com or blkgoldshawty06@aol.com.

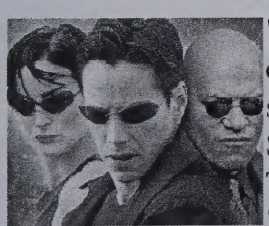
Oooh, That's My Song... and other leisure-time musings



By Keith Chandler

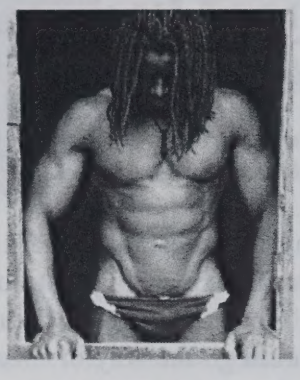
As we officially roll into summer, I hope everyone's asking one question: what's going to be this summer's "jam"? Okay, so perhaps everyone's not asking that question but I sure am. Right now, my bets are on Beyonce's "Crazy In Love". When the tune first came out I immediately liked it but thought it would go the way of "Work It Out" her first solo single the public wasn't quite ready for. But watching her on the Diva Duet special caused me to get those goosebumps that all talent watchers and pop culture vultures (like me) get when you're witnessing the evolution of something. Those of you that have been reading this column for some time know that I was a very vocal anti-Beyonce fan. But y'all, watching her go through the diva motions during her performance of "Dangerously In Love", I was transformed! Kelly and Michele should start writing their books about now (ha,ha). The little girl from Texas is on her way to that rarified air of Whitney, Janet, Chaka, Aretha, et al…And I couldn't be happier. Some of you may continue to hate on Ms. B, but then what is a diva without a few detractors.

On the other hand, early summer is also seeing the release of new music from Mya and Monica. These two ladies had a very early start and could be worthy of much more adoration from their fans but why does it always seem that they appear to be the "low budget" versions of other singers? I like both of them and will be checkin' for their CDs but can't help but feel that Mya particularly will not be making us say "Whoa" much past a few spins on the local radio. Thanks to Kazaa, I have had the opportunity to experience the music of Detroit singer Dwele (Dway-lay). For those hip-hop fans, Dwele's voice is the hook of the Slum Village tune "Tainted". His own CD, "Subject" will be a soothing moment for those feenin' for some D'Angelo. Like Badu, many of the tunes aren't full songs but rather musical ideas that create a vibe. I am also diggin' LCD Soundsystem's "Losing My Edge", soul singer Ledisi, jazz singer Lizz Wright, and Bubba Sparxx's new cuts "Jimmy Mathis" and "Disappear" from his upcoming CD "Deliverance". What I am not diggin' is the continued success of 50 Cent. Now c'mon y'all. What is the big friggin' deal? Did anyone besides me see his performance on the MTV Movie Awards????? Not to mention the cumulative effect on young men of the continued celebrations of images like his…but that's another column. Fiddy is one more reason to anticipate that summer jam that always seems to come out of nowhere.



"The Matrix: Reloaded" is coolest movie of summer. Not because of the special effects, but because African-Americans have achieved equality-at least in cinematic society-through this film. Often relegated to a few scenes in most major movies, Jada Smith, Harold Perrineau, Gina Torres, Laurence Fishburne get decent screen time. The Wachowski brothers promise even more screen time in the final chapter "Revolutions". For those who like back story in their science fiction, don't sleep on "The Animatrix". This animated CD gives you all the back story, including the answer to the question "who is that boy" while watching "Reloaded". The romantic in me has also enjoyed "Down With Love" featuring Renee Zellweger. (Might I add that Kazaa is also great for downloading movies-I saw "The Hot Chick" and "Old School" thanks to that site.) Summer is also the time for movies, so I encourage all of you to skip work and get into the cool comfort of the theatre. OOOOOOOOOOH, That's My Song…

5. Jimmy Mathis-Bubba Sparxx
4. Damaged-TLC (yes, I pulled this out of my dustbin but for some reason it compels me)
3. Choppa Style-DJ Choppa
2. Officially Missing You-Tamia
1. Crazy In Love-Beyonce



Best wishes to the sponsors & participants of this year's

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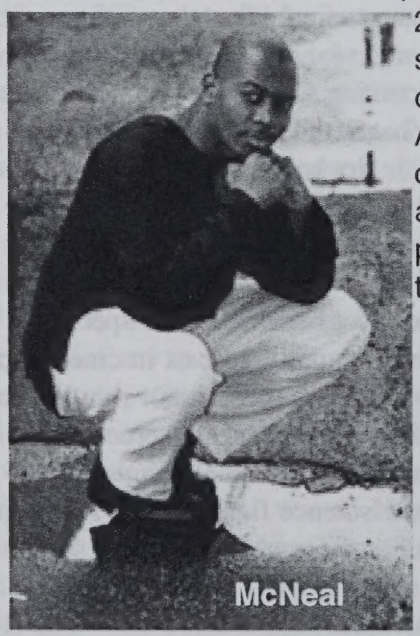

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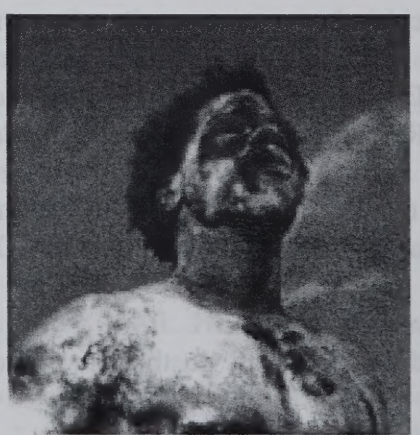

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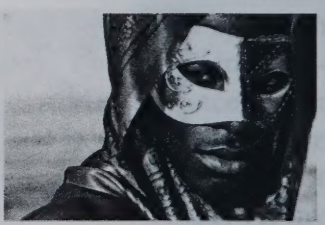

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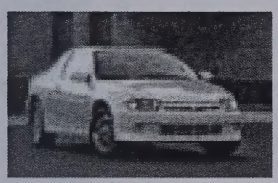

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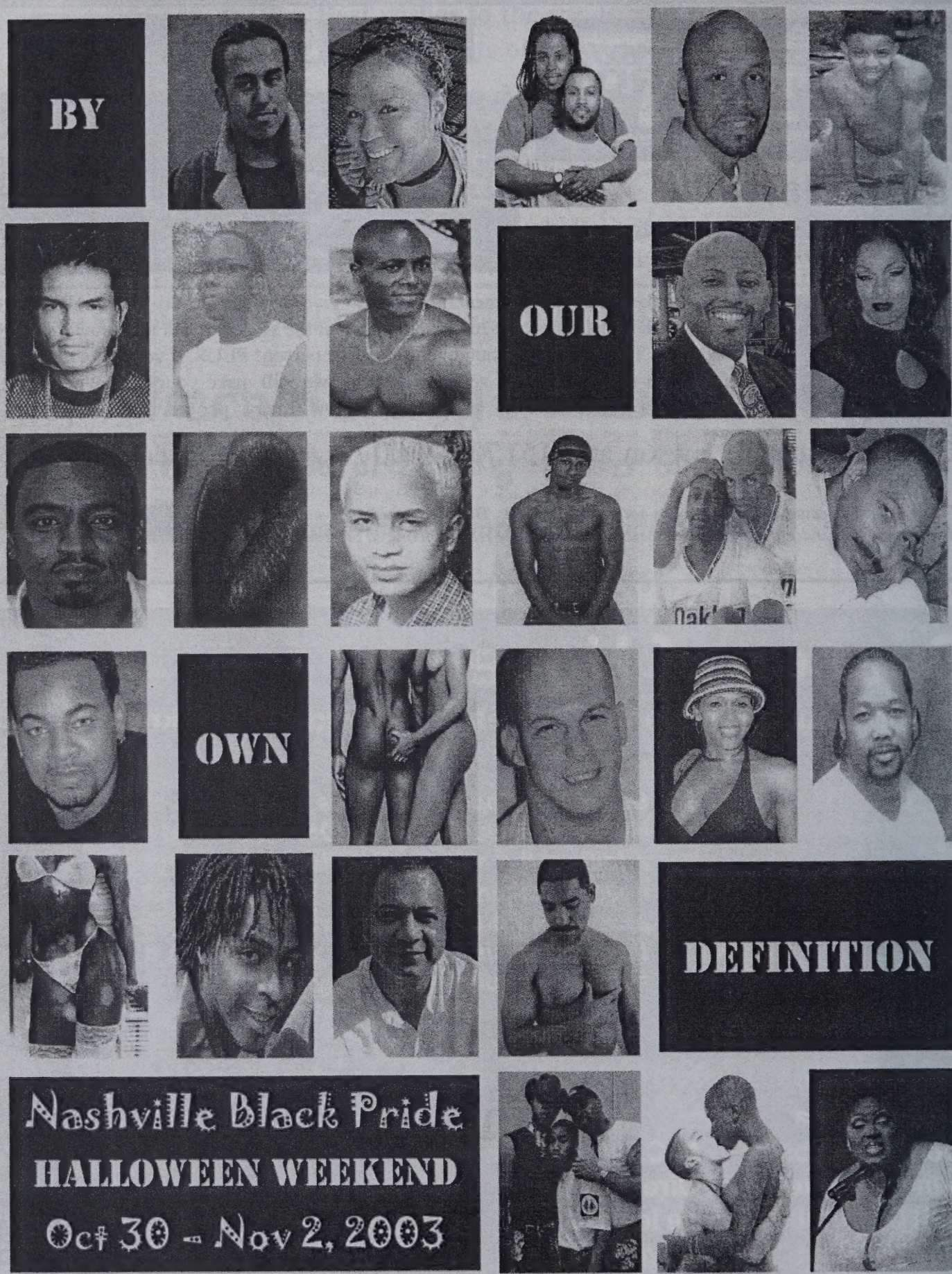

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Contact Dwayne at Nashville CARES (615) 259-4866 or (800) 845-4266 ext # 269 / BrosUnited@aol.com / www.BrothersUnited.com

THE SOURCE 2005

The Official Newsletter of Brothers United Nashville & affiliate chapters
WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images
Volume 7, Issue # 50

APRIL
MAY
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Special 24 page 50th Edition:
The Rock, Boldly Gay & Laying Pipe.

* * * * * * * *

Madea: Drag Queen or Church Icon?

TM

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THE SOURCE 2005

This newsletter is published quarterly for all the volunteers of the Brothers United Network of Tennessee chapters and other regional affiliates that provide HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and education. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by BU, Y-BU, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride or Nashville CARES. Names and pictures of persons appearing in any of THE SOURCE issues are no indication of sexual orientation or health status.

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Our newsletter is released quarterly.

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Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status or be considered "out" to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc
Providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation since 1996

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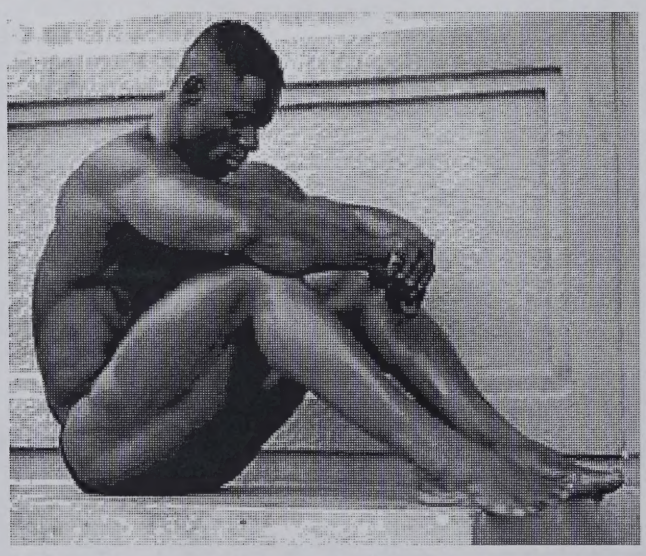
 Ricc Rollins Photography ©

HIV Infection Rate among Blacks Doubles

By JEFF DONN, Associated Press Writer

BOSTON - The HIV infection rate has doubled among blacks in the United States over a decade while holding steady among whites — stark evidence of a widening racial gap in the epidemic, government scientists said. Other troubling statistics indicate that almost half of all infected people in the United States who should be receiving HIV drugs are not getting them. The findings were released in Boston at the 12th Annual Retrovirus Conference, the world's chief scientific gathering on the disease. "It's incredibly disappointing," said Terje Anderson, director of the National Association of People With AIDS. "We just have a burgeoning epidemic in the African American community that is not being dealt with effectively." Researchers and AIDS prevention advocates attributed the high rate among blacks to such factors as drug addiction, poverty and poor access to health care.

The HIV rates were derived from the widely used National Health and Nutrition Examinations Surveys, which analyze a representative sample of U.S. households and contain the most complete HIV data in the country. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compared 1988-1994 data with figures from 1999-2002. The surveys look only at young and middle-aged adults who live in households, excluding such groups as soldiers, prisoners and homeless. **Thus, health officials believe the numbers probably underestimate true HIV rates in this country. Still, they show a striking rise in the prevalence of the AIDS virus from 1 percent to 2 percent of Blacks.** White rates held steady at 0.2 percent. Largely because of the increase among blacks, the overall U.S. rate rose slightly from 0.3 percent to 0.4 percent. Smaller studies had shown rising infection rates among blacks in recent years, but this study takes a longer and more complete look at changes in the general population. "I think it's very concerning," said Dr. Susan Buchbinder, who leads HIV research for the city of San Francisco. "I think what we need to look at is how we can reduce those rates and get more people into treatment." She recommended a stronger focus on treating drug addiction.



The lead CDC researcher, Geraldine McQuillan, said she was encouraged to see the HIV rate among younger blacks holding steady at just under 1.5 percent. "It tells me we're making some headway," she said. Other national data and published reports studied by the CDC showed that 480,000 HIV-infected people ages 15 to 49 should have been getting antiviral drugs in 2003, yet only 268,000, or 56 percent, were given such medication. Researcher Eyasu Teshale of the CDC said the gap represents "a substantial unmet health care need."

Treatment is widely viewed as a central component in prevention. Powerful AIDS drugs that came into wide use in the mid-1990s can knock down levels of the virus in the body, reducing the chances that the patient will infect others. Nearly 1 million people in the United States have contracted the AIDS virus since the outbreak began in the early 1980s. About 40,000 people test positive each year, and more than 18,000 die. However, U.S. infections have remained fairly level in recent years with the use of powerful HIV drugs.

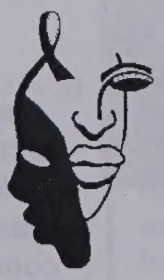
From Where We Sit

Hello BU SOURCE Readers

Every quarter I beat my brain to come up with something to say to you as the editor of this publication. By the time I attempt to do so, my brain is usually fried from the process of getting it together for you all. It is certainly no easy task, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BU SOURCE volunteer staff for helping to get this proofed, printed stuffed and mailed. I would also like to thank all of the writers and models for providing us with the material that keep our readers interested.

Did anyone catch the "State of the Black Union 2005: Road to Health" event sponsored and hosted by Tavis Smiley? This collection of panel discussions took place in Atlanta, and was televised on C-SPAN. During the first panel session entitled "Defining the African American Agenda" Tavis moderated a discussion on framing a contract or covenant to advance issue of concern to the African American Community and to establish a new direction for the Black Community to effect social and political change. For the first time I was able to hear, for myself, positive comments about Black Gay & Lesbian issues from a number of nationally known heterosexual people like Cornel West, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and Louis Farakhan. I was also excited that Keith Boykin and Phil Wilson were able to do their part to represent the Black Gay Male community. One of my favorite moments was when author Michael Eric Dyson said something to the effect of *how dare any of you take a stance against Gay & Lesbian people in our community. How can you not honor the lives of people like James Baldwin and others, how dare you!* If you missed it, we will be showing some of the highlights in the coming months.

During a local observance of National LGBT Health Week in March, I was struck by something a colleague of mine said in his closing remarks. Josh Barnes, who works for the Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Program said that *the only way that we (the entire gay community) will progress is if we get involved with our own issues. You just can't sit around and expect change...you have to do something!* And he's absolutely correct. I know that was short, simple and to the point. I also want to suggest that you get involved in something that can educate and empower your Gay & Lesbian peers. If you use that energy to help the overall community, we will continue to grow. Remember, silence equals death. - Dwayne



What is going on!!!

Below are just some quotes that I wanted to share with you. I hope you enjoy this food for thought:

"Sexuality means much more than physical arousal and orgasm. Attached to a person's sexuality is the capacity to feel affection, to delight in someone else, to get emotionally close to another person, to be passionately committed to him or her. Sexuality is at the core of that marvelous human experience, being in love- to be struck by the beauty of another and be drawn out of yourself, to become attached to another human being so powerfully that you easily begin measuring your life in terms of what's good for someone else as well as yourself."

- Daniel A. Helminiak PH.D.

I think this is important to know because as sexual beings we don't wont' to neglect what it is really all about. I know that for a lot of us we get caught up in the "sex" and not the sensual side of our beings, but they are equally important.

"Your sexuality is based upon and immersed in your sensuality. Your sexuality is activation, while your sensuality is motivation. You become a sexual creature before you ever commit the actual act of physical intimacy".

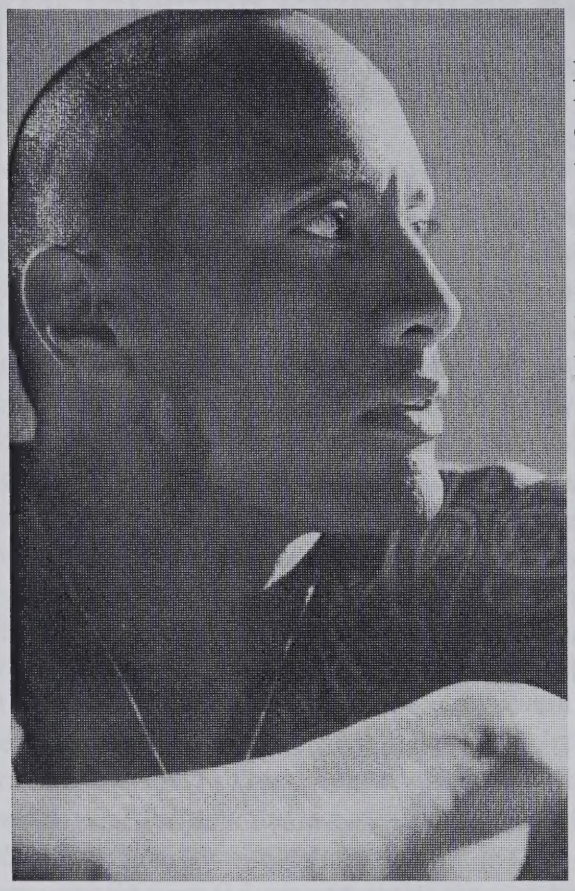
-J.H. Bryant

Keep in mind the upcoming events. I want to see all of you there.

Much Love,
Antyon

THE ROCK IS PROUD OF HIS 'BE COOL' GAY ROLE:

Actor plays gay bodyguard and dares anyone to talk smack.



As with any actor, The Rock was searching for a role that would allow him to flex some of his untapped acting muscles. When the character of a gay bodyguard in the F. Gary Gray's "Be Cool" crossed his desk, the former pro-wrestler's infamous eyebrow went up in excitement.

In the film, a sequel to 1995's "Get Shorty," John Travolta returns as shylock-turned-movie-producer Chili Palmer, who gets caught up with some shady characters in the music business - including the pimp-acting talent manager Raji (Vince Vaughn), and his gay bodyguard Elliot (The Rock), who secretly desires to be a movie star.

"Elliot Willem's a guy I could relate to," said The Rock, a.k.a. Dwayne Johnson. "He's an aspiring actor. That was me five years ago when I first broke in with 'The Mummy Returns.' He's a guy who doesn't have a lot of money at all - that was me eight years ago. Not only that, but here's a proud gay man. I'm not a gay man, let me confirm that right now, but I will say this, the gay influences in my life have been very, very, very strong. I've had a mentor for many, many years who's been friends with my mom and my dad. So that was my ideology and my interpretation of what gay will be portrayed in the movie. Here's this guy who just so happens to be gay, proudly gay, and not only that, but will kick somebody's ass if they didn't like it."

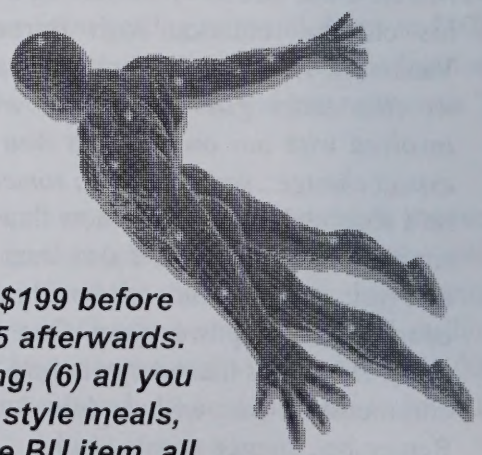
Elliot has a penchant for tight-fitting cowboy ensembles when he's not on active duty guarding Raji. One of the film's more memorable scenes has Elliot reciting an audition monologue for Chili, while his acting reel - featuring Elliot in shiny red Western wear and white cowboy hat - plays on a huge flat-screen in the background. But even more jarring than seeing the Rock swivels his hips and is viewing the actor with a full head of hair. Dude rocked a goatee and full Steve Harvey-style afro for the role." It was a wig," Rock admits. "I looked hot though, right? Everybody was telling me that."

Lee Bailey's EURextra -EURextra Newsbits: www.EURweb.com

Brothers United Winter Retreat # 9, "Rejuvenation"

Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center

December 1-4, 2005



For more information on how to register contact the Brothers United or Y-BU programs at Nashville CARES

Registration: $199 before Oct. 31 or $225 afterwards. Includes lodging, (6) all you can eat buffet style meals, commemorative BU item, all workshops and entertainment.

Official 2005 Black Pride Schedule:
April - November

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE APRIL 21 - 24
215 496-0330/ pride@coloursinc.org /
www.phillyblackpride.org

WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE MAY 27 - 30
866 94BLGPD / info@dcblackpride.org / www.dcblackpride.org

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE JUNE 8 – 12
617 238-2404 / ljames@mac-boston.org

MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE JUNE 17 – 19
901 331-3579 / hardawayarg@yahoo.com /
terryltbuck61@aol.com /www.brothersunited.com

BLACK PRIDE NYC JUNE 21 - 26
212 613-0097/blackpridenyc@aol.com/ blackpridenyc.com

SAN FRANCISCO BLACK PRIDE JUNE 26 - 27
510 268-0646 / tbhcafe@pacbell.net
www.californiablackprides.org

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323 293-4282 / atbla@aol.com / www.atbla.com

WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE JULY 1 – 4
lflennoy@aol.co / www.windycitypride.org

CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE JULY 14 -17
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www.floridablackpride.net

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK PRIDE JULY 15 - 17
www.charlottencpride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY JULY 27 – 31
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www.hotterthanjuly.com

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torontoblackpride.com

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www.ebonypride.org

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE AUGUST 31 - SEP 5
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www.dallasblackpride.com

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chairman@bmoreblackpride.org / bmoreblackpride.org

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE OCTOBER 6 - 9
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californiablackprides.org

MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE OCTOBER 6 - 9
601 942-6817 / mrobinson@murc.org

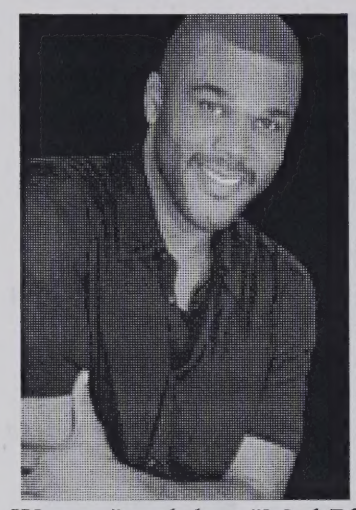
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE OCTOBER 28 – 30
800 845-4266 X 269 / brosunited@aol.com
brothersunited.com

NEW ORLEANS BLACK PRIDE NOVEMBER 26 - 28
504 524-2968/337 526-0629
info@neworleansblackpride.com

Unfortunately at the time of printing, some of the cities and dates weren't able to be included. Please check the July SOURCE issue or BU website for corrections & updates.

All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please contact the individual city for more details on host hotels and activity listings. Provided by Brothers United Network, Inc & The International Federation of Black Prides Organization, Inc.

TYLER PERRY TAKES MADEA FROM STAGE TO SCREEN:



Playwright Tyler Perry thought about changing the title of his successful 2001 play "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" to "Diary of a Woman" for his new film adaptation, so that non-black folks won't be too alarmed to give the movie a chance.

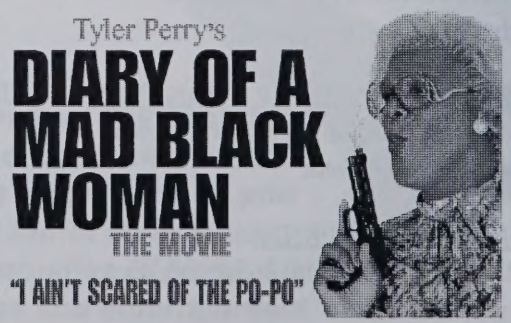
The story, about a woman whose husband of 18 years abruptly leaves her, features the larger than life Madea: the gun-packing, weed-smoking, electric sliding grandmama who takes in her jilted grandbaby. While Madea-like women are few and far between outside of the African American community, the film's elements of betrayal and resilience, according to Perry, has definite crossover appeal - which led to his initial idea of making the title less inclusive.I thought about changing the title [so that] when you see the movie, it would open and say "Diary of a Woman" and then "Mad Black" pops in - in red," laughs Perry. "But I wanted to stay true to the brand. The fans that had been there from the beginning would've been like, 'What did you change it for?' I was really concerned about that, so I wanted to make sure that they knew I was staying true to what it is."

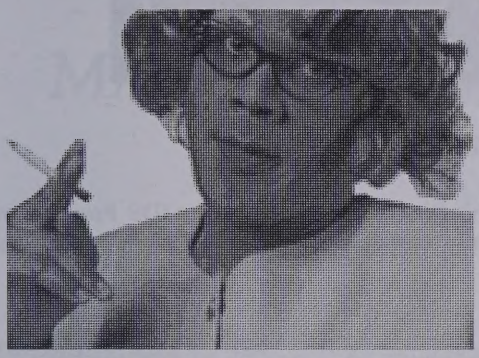
Kimberly Elise and Steve Harris star as Helen and Charles McCarter, a seemingly happy couple - until one night, Charles decides that he's leaving her for her best friend. Helen is literally kicked out onto the front porch, with a U-Haul waiting to carry away her stuff. Behind the wheel is Orlando, played by Shemar Moore. You can guess where things eventually head with those two. In the meantime, Helen leaves her middle-class home to go live with her grandmother, Madea - in the ghetto.

It is Madea who has drawn thousands of fans to theater houses around the country. The heavyset, larger-than-life big mama also enlivens Perry's previous stage productions "I Can Do Bad All By Myself," "Madea's Family Reunion," "Madea's Class Reunion" and "Madea Goes to Jail." How many more situations can this old crazy woman endure? "I don't think Madea's gonna get any better," Perry says. "She's at her arc. Matter of fact, she's close to her funeral because I'm getting to a point now where I want people to see me as me. That's why I did three characters in the movie [version] because I wanted to introduce some other sides of me. I wanted them to see my old man character so you're not just thinking that this is all I do." But Perry says if the public demands more of Madea, he's happy to oblige.

"It's been absolutely great," he says. "She's an endearing character that a lot of people adore and love and appreciate, and I'm grateful for it. But her days are getting numbered here." Perry is often asked how he is able to write women characters that resonate so soundly with his largely female audiences. "I grew up at the hip of my mother and I have two older sisters, who I've watched," he explains. "There's nothing like a man-child, a boy-child, sitting and watching the woman he loves - his mother - going through stuff because of a man. It puts him in a perspective that makes him go, 'Wow'. He's looking at it from such an innocent place that it really opens up a canvas to paint on."

Even before today's nationwide opening of "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," Perry is already committed to shooting its follow-up: an adaptation of "Madea's Family Reunion." The 35-year-old playwright, producer and actor believes he has been ordained to tell these inspirational stories. "There is so much negativity in the world. We put out so much negativity," he stresses. "There's so much from some of the music videos we see and movies we do, that somebody has to say, 'Okay, here's something different.' Somebody's gotta bring a balance. I think that's why I'm being so blessed with this. That's why I was called to do it.





Diary of a Mad Black *God* by Tuan N'Gai

February 25th, 2005. Opening night for Tyler Perry's "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and inside the theatre, hundreds are waiting to see the highly publicized play turned film. During the movie, people (myself included) laughed, cried, rejoiced, got angry, were wooed, and were taught a much needed lesson about love and forgiveness. I applaud Tyler Perry for his success. In fact, I admire him in a lot of ways. He's most definitely a Divinely Gifted person and his work proves it.

Now, let's get it straight right now, I have no problem with Mr. Perry. I take no exception to him or his work on any level. I think he's brilliant. What I do call into question is the support the moral, holy and sanctified black church gives him. Since the President made "the gay agenda" a black issue, the "black church" has made it known that they support him in his hateful, non-Christian, diabolical and discriminatory beliefs and proposed policies. They have even formed coalitions to support discriminatory legislation. BUT they have made a drag queen a millionaire 100 times over. Yes my friend, I said DRAG QUEEN! My question--Is God Pleased?

The American Heritage Dictionary defines "drag queen" as "A man, especially a performer, who dresses as a woman". By this definition, whether one wants to accept it or not, Mr. Perry qualifies. And since the black church is SO holy that according to many it has been the moral compass for this country for decades they are the MAIN ONES that support the theatrics of "Madea", Tyler Perry's most beloved character. Am I saying this is wrong? NO! Mr. Perry is a great artist and I believe great art should be supported. Is the black church confused? YES! Are they sending out mixed messages here? YES! Is the black church full of hypocrites? HELL YES!

Maybe the black church suffers from what I call the "Perverted Gospel Syndrome, or PGS". See, PGS is when people have been taught one thing, and they accept it as "the Word of God". They say they believe what they have been taught. But they live something totally different because in their spirit, they KNOW what they are being (or have been) taught is wrong. They conveniently choose what verses in the Bible should be interpreted literally (usually verses that condemn what they are ignorant of) while viewing the others (those that make them feel superior) through the eyes of scholarship. Either way, they prove themselves to be hypocrites because they live something other than what they say they believe.

For instance, the Bible says in Deuteronomy 22.5 "A woman must not wear men' s clothing. And a man must not put on women' s clothing. For the Lord your God hates whoever does these things". And the good black Christian people who support Mr. Perry believe this is the infallible Word of God. The Bible also says "abhor (hate it because God hates it) that which is evil, cleave to that which is good (Romans 12.9)." The black church is sending out mixed messages because they are supporting what the Bible says God hates. It seems the black church has sent out a message to those they have so hatefully marginalized. They are saying, "As long as the gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, trans-gendered, and drag queens are entertaining us with our music and 'Christian-themed' showS---WE'LL SUPPORT THEM!" Think about it since God hates men who dress like women, and the church is making them millionaires, wouldn't God hate the church by extension? By their logic---YES! They are just as damned as the drag queens they support.

God is showing through all this that He's most certainly NOT PLEASED with the black church. And I personally call them to repentance RIGHT NOW! The black church has treated the "extended" same gender loving community with hatred and contempt for countless years. They have condemned God's gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-gendered, drag community to hell. They have behaved themselves abominably as it relates to God's laws about brotherly love. And if they don't stop it they will be destroyed. Every hate filled word of judgment they have spewed will be applied to them if they don't stop it. God loves EVERYBODY. And if the black church doesn't wake up, accept it, and live it--it will reap the destruction it has spoken upon its own people. In a way, God has proven that He WILL "use the ignorance of this world to confound the wise". He's used the wealth and resources of the black church to make a drag queen rich and famous!

Tuan N'Gai is the Dallas-based author of "Will I Go To Heaven? The Black Gay Spiritual Dilemma," and founder of Biazo Ministries (www.biazoministries.com). Article from www.jasmynecannick.com

Call for Submissions: Think Again 2

Published by the New York State Black Gay Network, Institute for Gay Men's Health (AIDS Project Los Angeles & Gay Men's Health Crisis); Black AIDS Institute and The National Black Justice Coalition. Co-edited by Frank Leon Roberts and Marvin K. White

Submissions are currently being accepted for the second volume of the 2004 LAMBDA Literary Award-nominated anthology Think Again to be published by the New York State Black Gay Network, The Institute of Gay Men's Health (a collaboration between AIDS Project Los Angeles and Gay Men's Health Crisis), The Black AIDS Institute and the NBJC (National Black Justice Coalition). The first volume, which featured contributions by a diverse array of writers, critics and artists such as Roderick Ferguson, Lyle Ashton Harris, Tim'm T. West and Vincent Woodard, among others, attempted to re-think the relationship between black men and HIV/AIDS. It is through this "re-thinking" that new truths were told, old lies unearthed and the way forward made clear. A forum for black men to hear and read one another's experiences was born, narratives were connected.

This new volume will speak in even greater volume to and from black gay men and black men who practice same-sex desire and the intersections of family and social value. In Think Again 2 our personal narratives, poetry and cultural criticism will speak to how black men anchored in various communities of same sex desire, construct, are denied, and (re)imagine notions of kinship and belonging as well as the social value of their lives, practices, and performances in the age of the global AIDS pandemic. Think Again 2 will be a gathering of diasporic black voices, re-locating our (dis)located bodies, minds and spirits to these pages, the family album of our dreams. Think Again 2 will be a landmark conversation about same-sex marriage, the "down low" and black masculinities in the age of AIDS as well as the institutions of black cultural belonging (church, 'home', etc.) to which gay and same sex desiring black men are often excluded.

Submit your stories about family, both your biological and your extended. Tell the story of how you got your name: gay, DL, SGL or Other. Answer the question "Are you family?" Is there/has there been/will there be "value" in identifying as gay or as being "family?" Tell the story of when you changed your name from one to the other. Speak to feeling like "The Other." Speak to constructing virtual and on-line family and how your electronic life is performed and played out. Speak to the exclusion of your life from your family's history. Speak to a literary lineage. Speak to fatherhood, yours and your fathers. Speak to your children, both biological and found. Speak to the media shaped masculinities that you choose from and the "hand-me-down"ness" of labels that just might not fit you. Tell your story of aging in or aging out of "the family." Speak to 'staying in' and 'coming in' rather than 'coming out' to black communities. Write to love and how your love is re-enforced or torn apart by the places where love is suppose to reside. Write about our lives' worth, our heart's worth, our mind's worth.

Committed to reaching various and broad publics, we especially welcome submissions from those involved in activist and community based organizations; unofficial historians of black gay cultures, those that have "seen and heard it all", public health agencies targeting black men of diverse sexualities and their clients; writers from film, performance, and entertainment industries; 'queer' burgeoning and sub-cultures including cultures of hustling, public sex, "ballroom/house/club" and J-Sette ; black gay and black communities of same-sex desire outside of the U.S., including but not limited to London and Europe, Jamaica and the Caribbean, Africa and 'Latin' America, as well as those centered in traditional academic institutions. The volume will be edited by Frank Leon Roberts, a young scholar, activist and editor of Brownstone Magazine based in New York City and Marvin K. White, former member of Pomo Afro Homos, co-founder of B/Glam, and author of the LAMBDA Literary-Award nominated collections of poetry Last Rights (Redbone Press) and Nothin' Ugly Fly (Redbone Press), based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

All submissions should be single-spaced, copied in the text of the email and sent as an attachment to THINKAGAIN2@GMAIL.COM, and should not exceed 3,000 words. Please include a brief two to three line biographical sketch at the end of your submission. Do not attach jpeg, tif, or mpeg images with your work. Also, while we encourage narratives to be both poetic and critical, please do not send poetry (unless it is incorporated into your essay) or traditional academic essays (large blocked quotes, extensive footnotes, etc).

Expected Publication Date: June 2005

MAC Productions

Unique Entertainment

featuring Female to Male Impersonations & other Special Events for women.

Chit-Chat

I would like to give a shout out to all of the ladies that attended the Girl's Movie Night event last quarter. We had 24 women show up from ages 19-59. We appreciate Dwayne's efforts and want females to continue reading The SOURCE for listing of upcoming events for the ladies like our first official business meeting April 23.

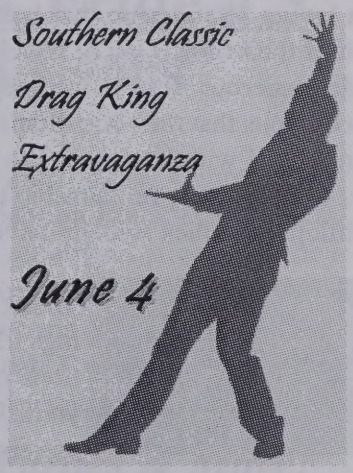
Road Trips!

Since I know that several of you love to travel, we have listed a few events in our region that you may want to check out.

Mac & Stallion will be performing at the All American Femme Girl Pageant in Atlanta on April 3. This event is hosted by the Satiago Family and takes place at The Atrium.

Shon Franklin, Mr. Esquire 2003-4, will be performing at Club Allusions in Memphis April 15-16 .

On Saturday, May 21 we will be attending the very first Clarksville Pride event at their Fairground Pavilion. For information contact David Shelton at dwshelton@bellsouth.com or view www.clarksvillepride.com. If anyone is interested in going please contact us.



Upcoming Events

The Southern Classic Drag King Extravaganza, Saturday, June 4 (during Nashville Pride) at the French Quarter Cafe'. Come & witness the best in female to male Drag performances with guests from Chicago, Ohio, St. Louis and Atlanta.

Mac Productions is also searching for a location and contestants for Nashville's first Femme Girl Pageant. For details and applications contact 615 498-1956 or e-mail macproductionspageant@yahoo.com

Girl Party!! April 3 * May 1 * June 5

Word has it that there will be a new monthly event every fist Sunday celebrating the Lesbian population of party goers in Nashville. "Girl Party" is a product of Giovanni Icon and Black Lesbian DJ, Ms. Jane Dupree of House Nation Productions with support from PLAY Dance Bar, Mac Productions, and the Church Street Freedom Press. It will feature go-go dancers, special characters and the hottest regional female DJ's. Although these gatherings are female themed, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend regardless of gender or sexual orientation. The first Girl Party will be held on April 3 and continue through the spring & summer months (except July & September).

FAMILY

Remember the disco days where Sister Sledge proudly proclaimed "We Are Family?" I got all my sisters and brothers with me! Remember the excitement it stirred on the dance floor as people danced together? For years, we have proclaimed that it takes a village to raise a child. We, the African-Americans, have realized this truth since our existence. The perception of what a family is became extremely relevant as many of us began to accept our sexual identities. In Queersville, there will always be a big mama to watch over his/her gay children. The older person that will speak to us with more than just the wisdom of experience but also of sincerity and compassion. The GLBTQ community has always had a sense of family involvement. We had to create our own sense of security for each other after we came to the realization of who we were. This truth became evident when our natural parents cast us out as demons from their lives. We had to come together to decrease the increasing rate of suicides among our brothers and sisters after their families and friends abandoned them.

Amidst potential life threatening issues involving the mainstay of this state as well as this nation; the increased rate of HIV infection especially among the young black females, lack of sufficient healthcare, wars, etc, our local fearless leaders have decided to establish a war on gay adoptions. Senators Diane Black and Douglas Jackson have single-handed decided what is best for our state. In their eyes, only children should be adopted into traditional homes with a mother and a father. It matters not that there existed no factual evidence to support their argument that parenting by someone of the GLBTQ community will truly confuse the children. The Republican Senator Black suggests that most studies include fine print that states there is not enough information to support her case. Amazing, isn't it that the process of changing legislation can be started without all of the facts or just enough facts to support the change?

For well over a decade, I have attended Edgehill United Methodist Church. In the congregation are two women in a loving relationship that has lasted for years. They are the mothers of two children that they adopted almost after each of their birth. One of the children is now thirteen years old and has special needs. Together as a family, they have made numerous treks to the hospitals in caring for his medical needs. One of the mothers recently informed me that it was obvious that their son didn't take after their sexual orientation because he definitely turns his head whenever he sees a pretty girl with long hair. We laughed at the mere thought that because they were indeed two women involved in a long lasting loving relationship that their son did not turn out gay. In retrospect, I find it quite interesting that these same traditional families actually have more GLBTQ children than the GLBTQ parents raising adoptive children.

Being someone who was actually adopted albeit my fraternal grandmother, I can relate to feelings of possible abandonment. Currently, there are 9,853 children in state custody. Large portions of those in state custody are children with special needs and minorities. Many of the youth are beyond the normal adoption ages. Is it fair to deny these children the love and compassion from someone simply because of their sexual orientation? Recent news of our acceptable traditional families rearing children has been frightful. A step-great grand father shoots a four-year for playing with his tools, a boy is found chained to his bed and close to death by dehydration, two twin sisters found alone behind a closet door, a mother is driving drunk while her children almost perishes in a home fire. I can go on, but you get the picture. How many reports have been made where a child in the care of a same-sex couple have been found in jeopardy?

Legislation of this kind is mean-spirited. It only opens the doors for other forms of discrimination to evolve. Are you willing to simply stand quietly by and accept the proposed laws? Feel free to contact the key players in this new measure; Sen. Doug Jackson, D-Dickson, sen.doug.Jackson@legislature.state.tn.us or Sen. Diane Black, R-Gallatin, sen.Diana.black@legislature.state.tn.us Always remember, we are the one that elect our leaders. Get involve with local and national GLBTQ organizations such as the Tennessee Equality Project or the Human Rights Campaign. Stop being just a casual member of Brothers United and become an active member with a voice. We may not have the 'my baby daddy syndrome' going on but we do have our close intimate circles that we call our family. Just ask Dwayne and Nathan how many childrums they have. Awareness and knowledge are crucial if we are to survive and actually live in a land of freedom. Remember, we are family!

Phil Michal Thomas is the author of *Panels* and writes for Gay Weekly, Church Street Freedom Press in Nashville.

Nashville Black Pride presents

Big Ass Yard $ale #2, July 2005

That's right, it's time to clean out those closets, dresser drawers and stored away boxes. The NBP Planning Team is asking that the community help us out and donate usable items and materials to sell during our annual Spring fund raiser. All of the proceeds raised will help the committee make this years Black Pride event in October unforgettable. It's a perfect way to show pride.

We accept furniture, clothing, shoes, kitchen items and everything else in between. To donate or volunteer to help, please contact Dwayne immediately. Remember, Brothers United is a 501c3 non profit organization, and your contributions can be tax deductible! Call 259-4866 or e-mail brosunited@aol.com. Location TBA.

Nashville Black Pride # 3

October 28-30, 2005

Host hotel: Quality Inn & Suites, 2401 Brick Church Pike, 37207, (615) 226-4600. You must mention Black Pride for the $55 rate before September 30. Guest accommodations include a complimentary Deluxe Hot Breakfast. Join thousands as we celebrate the lives, culture & contributions of African American Gay/SGL people. For more details call Dwayne or Antyon at CARES, brosunited@aolcom, or visit www.brothersunited.com

Black Gay Film Fest, Cultural Events, Workshops, Parties & More!

National Black Justice Coalition

Fairness For Our Families

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Black, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender civil rights.
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NBJC

Seasonal Growth for the Transgender Community: *Learn To Thrive and Not Just Survive*

Spring is a time for renewal and revival. Just as the beautiful flowers that once stood tall and full of glory, choked by the winter's harsh elements, miraculously spring back to life. We must learn to catch a second wind (wind of renewal) and pick up where we left off. Life has many pitfalls and 90 degree turns but isn't it wonderful to know we all are here for a distinct and high purpose.

But too often we find ourselves struggling in obtaining perfect peace, where there is no peace there can be no renewal of the mind, body, nor spirit. I don't know one Transgendered individual that had a smooth transition. Most of us if not all experienced some form of rejection, isolation, or even worse some form of abuse, whether it was on the job, in the community, or our own homes. The price we pay is too high-illness, depression, unrelenting weariness.

Spring time within the earth is a time for all things to become new again. We, the creators' children, must use this time to determine and isolate the negatives in our lives. Without this knowledge we are destined to repeat a relentless cycle of unhappiness and depression.

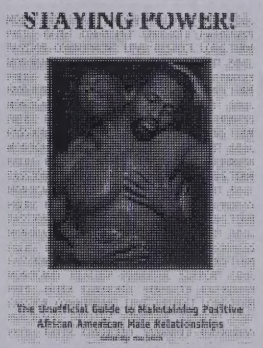
Use this time to come back to yourself. Some times isolation is the best time for revelation. Slow down, lower your defense, and open your heart to receive the creator's plan for your life. Be patient and remember there is an all knowing presence with in.

Learn to let the past go and put your future in your creators' hands. Surround yourself around positive and upbeat people. If you have a certain status or level of desired achievement, don't hesitate to ask people for guidance (people living successful lives). Get involved in local clubs, organizations, volunteer agencies that cater to the LGBT lifestyle (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered). This is a sure way of meeting successful and positively motivated people that will love and support you. Tell yourself that you will not allow the same hatred or confused emotions of others to affect the way you treat people. Don't allow your present situation or position in life to define who you are, remember you have the creators' breath of life within. You can succeed but you have to believe that you can.

It doesn't take much to survive, only food, water, air, and shelter. However if you share the same will to thrive and succeed in life it will take some effort on your part. Listed above are a few simple and painless options we all can do to help enrich and motivate our precious lives. In all that you do remember to reach back and help those coming up or falling in your footsteps. The road seems easier to travel knowing it has been successfully traveled before.

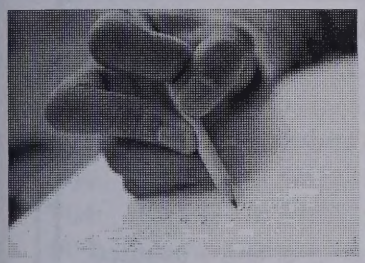
Celeste Arrianna Frey (Foxy)
Community Activist
Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant
E-mail: Arrianna7@aol.com
Phone: 800-370-4139

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS:



Chicago Moon Publishing, publisher of "Staying Power! The Unofficial Guide to Maintaining Positive African American Male Relationships" is seeking submissions from published and unpublished African American SGL men about their worst relationship experiences. A book of 25 short stories will be published in the Spring/Summer of 2005 and we want to include yours.

Authors selected for publication will receive $100 and a copy of the book. Readers will vote on their favorite story and the winner will receive $250. Email your unpublished story in the body of your email, or as a Microsoft Word attachment, or text attachment to chicagomoonpub@aol.com by April 15, 2005.



Indicate your name (for the check), the name you want the story published under (or your desire to remain anonymous) and valid contact information, such as a telephone number and mailing address. Stories selected for publication will become the property of Chicago Moon Publishing, Inc.

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gay men's health fair

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11 am - 4 pm

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• community information and resources •

for more information contact
Brad Beasley 615-340-5676 or Kevin Lawson 615-259-4866
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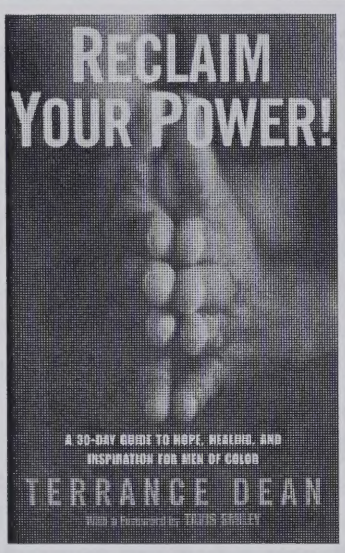


"Reclaim Your Power!" By Terrance Dean

A 30-Day Guide to hope, healing and inspiration for Men of Color

Excerpt taken from: *Day 19: Breathe*

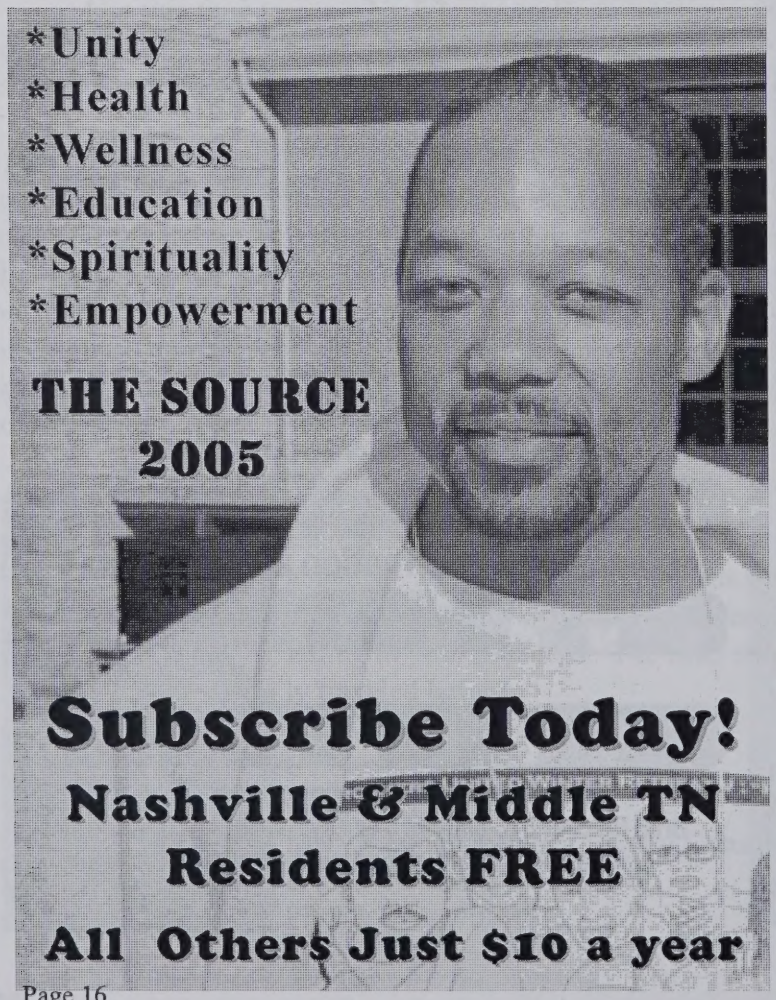
To live is to breathe. To have clarity is to breathe. Breathing is the most important aspect of living.

When we become frustrated, stressed, and upset, our breathing quickens. We become confused. Life is happening; it's coming too fast. Our families are demanding, our jobs want more time, we want to be on top, and our loved ones need us home. This is how our life appears. We become so bombarded with demands and pressures to be and do *more*.

When that happens, stop and breathe, just breath.When was the last time you sat down and took a deep breath? When was the last time you exhaled? You probably can't remember.

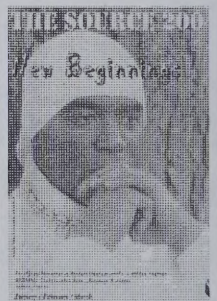
Next time you're in a situation in which things are happening fast, or when you become upset and frustrated, or you are in a situation in which you can't think, just breathe. Take some deep breaths and allow yourself to relax and become clear. Take in a deep breath and exhale. Release all the negative energy and toxins. Today, breathe for Spirit. Spirit can work better when you are clear and relaxed.

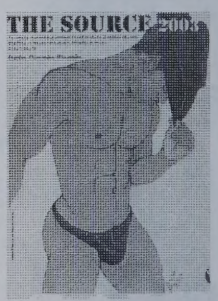
Exercise: Practice breathing deeply and take notice of any changes in your being.

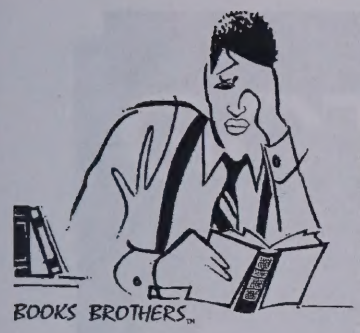


With a current circulation over 700 households in Tennessee and across the nation, you will not find a better deal on a subscription price anywhere! Let us be your *source* into our Black Gay world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order payable to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.







Reading is Fundamental...

Once upon a time in Nashville, Books Brothers Book Club was one of the most popular and nationally recognized reading groups for Black Gay Men in the nation. We began meeting on a montly basis in 1997 and just recently have been on hiatus for the past few years. Even though we haven't gathered locally, we still get massive amounts of hits on our website and e-mail inquires wondering what we will be reading next. Listed below are the book titles and authors from 2004-2006 that we have suggested for your reading pleasure. If you would like a copy of the books we read between 1997- 2004 please contact us directly by phone or email from the listing on page 3. Since there are so many great Black LGBT authors who write targeted books for and about our community, we suggest that you support their efforts and grab your copy before they're gone and no longer available!

2004

1/04:	Love Lifted Me	K. Godfrey Easter
2/04:	I'm On My Way	Christopher David
3/04:	Killing Me Softly	J. Keith Stewart
4/04:	On the Down Low	J.L. King
5/04:	Black, Gay & Christian	Herndon L. Davis
6/04:	Black Gay Man	Robert Reid-Pharr
7/04:	The Return of SF	DeJohn
8/04:	Truth: Red, White & Black	Morales & Baker
9/04:	The Song of a Manchild	Durrell Owens
10/04:	Staying Power	Max Smith
11/04:	Colorful Matters	Ken Jackson
12/04:	Let It Be Real	R. Bryant Smith

****

We would gladly reinstitute our local book club gatherings if more people showed an interested in reading again. We could meet bi-monthly or quarterly. If you are interested please let us know.

2005

1/05:	Funny	Steven G. Fullwood
2/05:	A Place Where I lost my Jesus	Arthur Prodigy
3/05:	Beyond The Down Low	Keith Boykin
4/05:	Patterns	Phil Michal Thomas
5/05:	Exposed	Keith Barbee
	& Reclaim Your Power	Terrance Dean
6/05:	Under Cover	Laurinda D. Brown
7/05:	One Night Stand	Walter Wright
8/05:	A House is not a Home	James Earl Hardy
9/05:	Down For Whatever	Frederick Smith
10/05:	Coming Up from the Down Low	J.L. King
11/05:	Sons	Alphonso Morgan
12/05:	Homo Thug	Asante Kahari

2006

1/06:	When You Don't Know	Tony Manson
2/06:	This Time Around	Brent Dorian Carpenter
3/06:	He and I: Anatomy of Obsession	Ron Johnson
4/06:	Nigger's Heaven	Terence E. Jackson
5/06:	Booty Boys	Jay Russell

"Quiet Drama" . . . photography by
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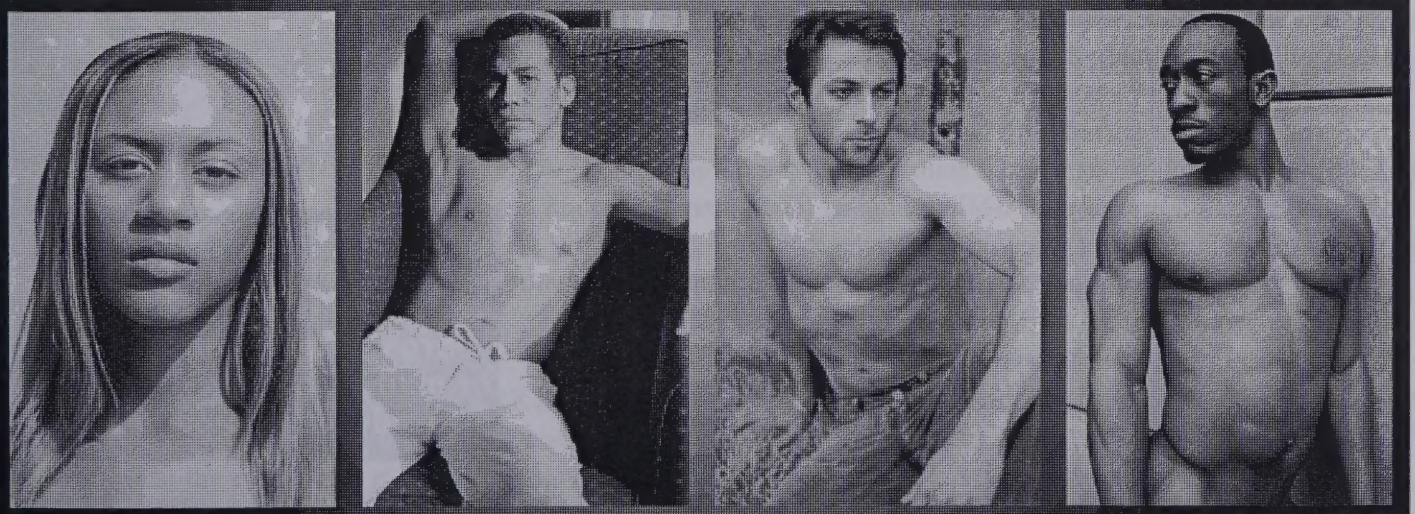

barryanoland.com barryanoland@aol.com 615.243.4973

Free Your Mind, and the rest will follow...

A Cultured Sista....

A cultured sista is what I thirst for; vision us slowly grinding a soul struggle on the kitchen floor. I would admire her cotton roots as we feed each other knowledge and earth chips to survive on this realm. Every time she smiles it would make me feel like earth revolves on the axis of my finger tips. Every time I feel her touch, it would feel like my grandmother's quilt assuring me of the nearness of a revolution....and every time she lay to slumber, I would speak to her 24hr awakened spirit and with my lips, place chi about her canvas and await for my queen to rise queen of the sun the next morning.

-Nubian Sun

untitled

somone with aids
is feeling very much alone
cause he's more than in exile
of himself, waiting for life
to spill more than offers
of denial from blood

see his kin had forgotten
how it was before
a death warrant loomed
when shit was sweet
like his smile, his walk
fag is how they name him now
dont call him brother
or son, just call him
the one who got
what he deserves for being
gay.

- sisteroutsider

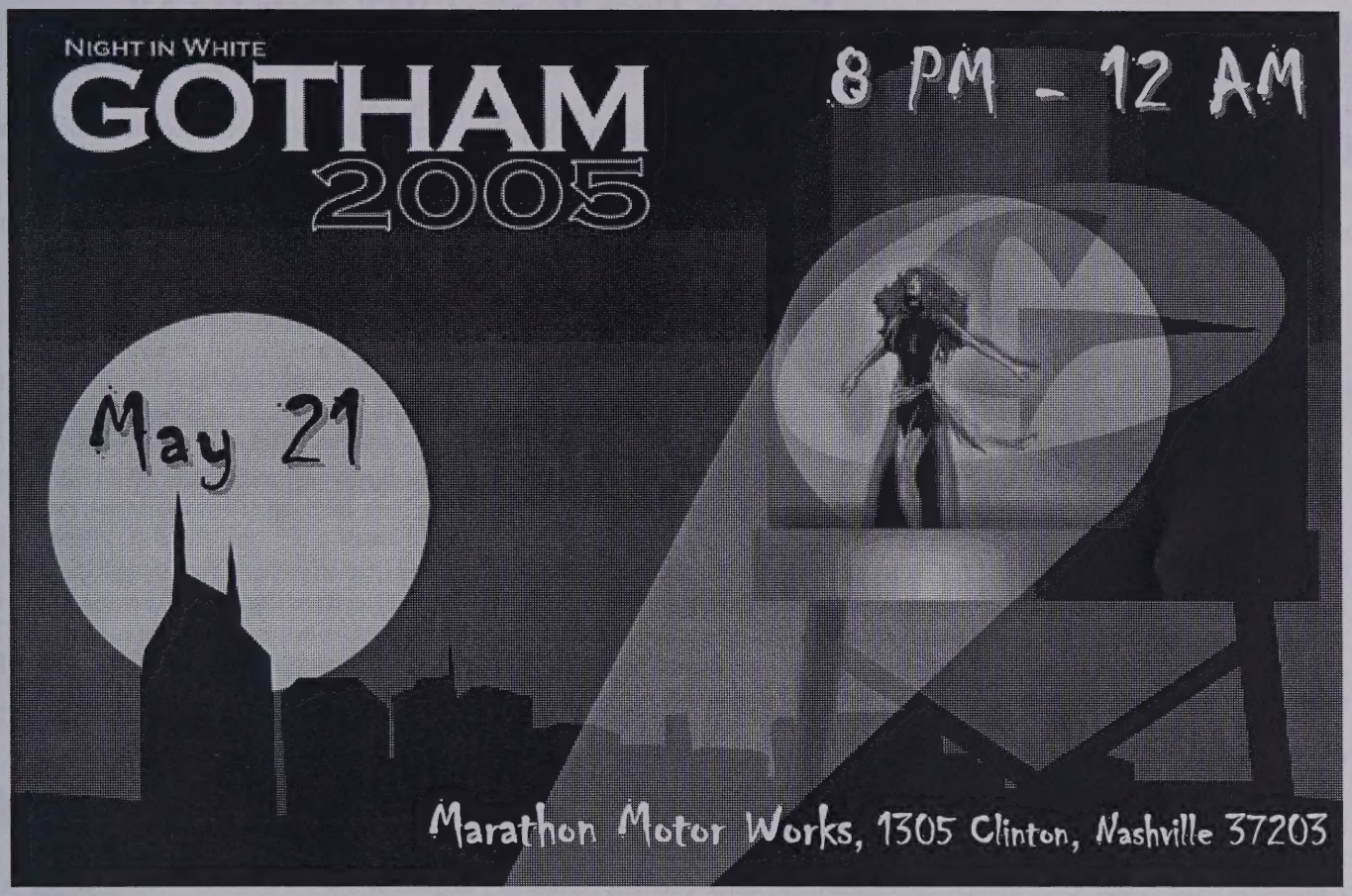
Curious Places

Curious places touched by foreign tongue
Whether poetic verse or chorus sung
Curious places await that tongue's caress
To fulfill the void of their emptiness
Curious places take on new faces
As repeatedly that tongue traces
Those curious places that have long awaited
For that tongue to have them validated.

Curious places are stirred with life anew
As foreign tongue strokes words that are true.
Curious places are paralyzed while being set free
As mystery is unveiled that alluded it's ancestry.
As curious places embraces impregnated hopes with anticipation.
As foreign tongue gives birth to their proud liberation.
Liberation emerges from a womb once sealed.
The tongue clings to curious places with destiny fulfilled.

-MAG

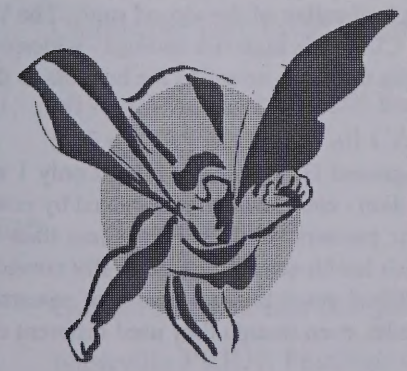
To speak *your* truth please forward all submissions to brosunited@aol.com or mail a copy on disk to the address on page 3.



Descend into the dark underbelly of the city for a wild night of libations, gyrations, mystery and intrigue!

Join us for NIW: GOTHAM on Saturday, May 21, at the old Marathon Motor Works factory, near downtown Nashville. GOTHAM is a brand new concept for Night In White (NIW), Nashville CARES' annual dance benefit and thank you party for the GLBT community and friends.

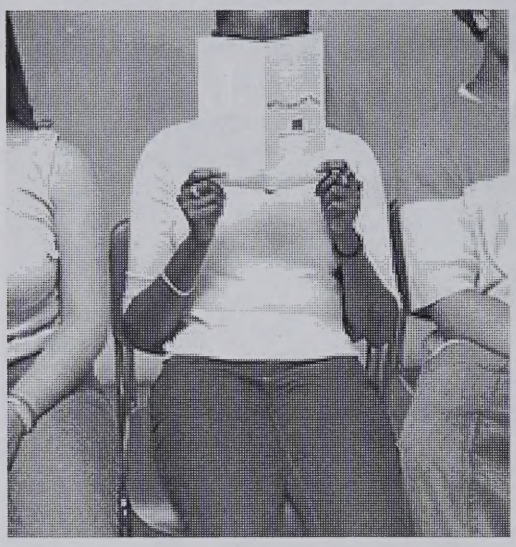
The indoor/outdoor dance party will feature international pop/club superstar AMBER, two DJs, and an amazing line up of performance art entertainers-set among the dramatic and crumbling remains of a turn of the century industrial plant. GOTHAM is presented by BLAVOD EXTREME SPIRITS.



In addition to great music, food and entertainment, GOTHAM will feature a special collaborative silent auction with upstart artist co-op PLOWHAUS. Sales of art donated by some of Nashville's best artists will benefit both Nashville CARES and Plowhaus; other auction items (including travel, home and garden, spa and beauty items) will benefit Nashville CARES.

There will not be another party like this one all year! Tickets are limited; last year's Zootopia event was a sellout and folks were turned away at the door- so get your tickets now! Thank you for supporting care for people living with HIV and AIDS and HIV prevention education at Nashville CARES with your ticket purchase.

Regular Admission: $25.00 pp/$35.00 at the door / VIP Admission: $75.00+ pp/$85+ at the door.
VIP ticket purchasers get TWO PARTIES for the price of one! Benefits include a pre-event VIP reception hosted by Blavod Extreme Spirits at uber-trendy W274 (May 1st), VIP tickets, access to the GOTHAM VIP lounge at the event, and more! For more details call CARES or click: www.gothamparty.org



Experts Urge Routine HIV Tests for All

By LINDA A. JOHNSON

Urging a major shift in U.S. policy, some health experts are recommending that virtually all Americans be tested routinely for the AIDS virus, much as they are for cancer and other diseases. Since the early years of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, the government has recommended screening only in big cities, where AIDS rates are high, and among members of high-risk groups, such as gay men and drug addicts.

But two large, federally funded studies found that the cost of routinely testing and treating nearly all adults would be outweighed by a reduction in new infections and the opportunity to start patients on drug cocktails early, when they work best. "Given the availability of effective therapy and preventive measures, it is possible to improve care and perhaps influence the course of the epidemic through widespread, effective and cost-effective screening," Dr. Samuel A. Bozzette wrote in an editorial accompanying the studies, which appear in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

A failure to institute such screening at doctors' offices and clinics would be "a critical disservice" to patients with the AIDS virus and "the future health of the nation," wrote Bozzette, who is from the University of California at San Diego and the Rand Corp. think tank in Santa Monica, Calif. Dr. Robert Janssen, director of HIV-AIDS prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the CDC will re-evaluate its guidelines over the next two years, and will consider the study's findings as well as the availability of new, rapid HIV tests that produce results in a half-hour instead of the usual week or two.

Who would bear the cost of expanded testing - and the cost of the treatment, which runs to at least $15,000 a year - remains a sticky question amid government cutbacks in health-care funding. However, Janssen said the studies' findings could lead to some private insurers to encourage more HIV testing. One of the studies, by researchers at Duke and Stanford universities and the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, estimated that routine one-time testing of everyone would cut new infections each year by just over 20 percent, and that every HIV-infected patient identified would gain an average of 1 1/2 years of life.

The other study, by Yale and Harvard researchers, found that testing people every three to five years would be cost-effective for all but the lowest-risk people, such as those who are celibate or are in monogamous heterosexual relationships. And even for those people, one-time testing was found to be cost-effective. Nationwide, about 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year. An estimated 950,000 people are infected with the virus, but about 280,000 of them don't know it.

CDC guidelines recommend routine tests wherever the prevalence of HIV infection is more than 1 percent - basically, cities and some densely populated suburbs. "If you need proof of the fact that it's not working, look at all the people who have slipped through the cracks - 280,000," said A. David Paltiel of the Yale School of Medicine's division of health policy, lead author of the second study. The VA-funded study found that in areas where about 1 in 100 patients has undiagnosed HIV - what the CDC calls high-risk settings - widespread testing would cost about $15,100 for each year of good health gained by people diagnosed with the virus, counting the benefits to their sexual partners.

Even in areas with an undiagnosed HIV infection rate of only 1 in 2,000- the rate in the general population - each healthy year gained by newly diagnosed HIV patients and their partners would still cost less than $50,000. That is the threshold at which health economists generally consider treatments to be cost-effective. Paltiel noted the two groups of researchers had very similar cost-benefit results, even though they used different computer models.

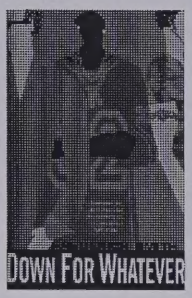
"The cost-benefit to individuals and society is worth" widespread screening, said Dr. Lawrence Deyton, chief of public health in the Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides medical care to about 5 million veterans. In light of the findings, he said the VA is going to urge more patients to get tested. "We're going to take the ball and run with it," Deyton said.

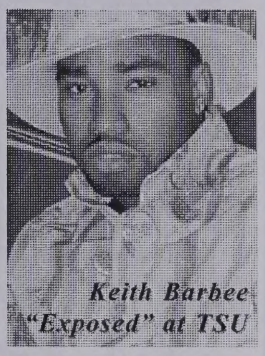
Nashville Events

April

Minority Health Month in Tennessee

4/3: HRC-HBCU Conference Update Meeting: 2pm. Members of TSU-GSA, BU & YBU, and the new FISK group will be meeting with Brandon Braud to address gay issues on campus. Guest appearance by author Fredick Smith, and his new book "Down For Whatever".





4/3: Girl Party: $7, 9pm-3am at Play- 1519 Church Street

4/7: Aries Party at Blu Bar $7/free to all Aries- Tabu Entertainment

4/21: Y-BU Meeting, 7pm TBA- Contact Anyon at 259-4866 x 221

4/23: Nashville Black Pride Planning Team Mgt 2-4 at Nashville CARES

4/23: Sistah's Meeting: "It's been a long time Coming..."Join a newly formed group for and by Lesbians and help develop the mission, vission, goals and objectives. 6-8 at Nashville CARES.

4/23: BU Mixer: The Lobby, Nashville CARES 8pm

4/27: Author Keith Barbee "Exposed" Book Signing: Floyd Payne Campus Center, TSU, 3rd Floor. Join us as we welcome this TSU Alum back for the signing and support of his 2nd book of poetry. This is the first time he will be signing at his alma mater and we are excited that this young Black Gay Author is stepping out and getting *exposed* in his old stomping grounds.

4/30: Gay Men's Health Fair; Nashville CARES 11am-4pm. Free screenings, videos, refreshments & more!

May

5/1: Girl Party: $7, 9pm-3am at Play- 1519 Church Street

5/5: Taurus Party at Blu Bar $7/free to all Taurus- Tabu Entertainment

5/6: SIMBE Social # 14, The Onyx Room 10pm-3am-$7 before midnight, $10 after. OraSure testers pay $3.

5/19: Y-BU Meeting, 7pm TBA- Contact Anyon at 259-4866 x 221 or awallace@nashvillecares.org

5/21: Clarksville Gay Pride Event:: www.clarksvillepride.com

5/21: NIW: Gotham- A benefit for CARES, 8 pm Marathon Motor Works, 1305 Clinton. 8 pm-midnight. $25 pp/$35 at door. Call CARES for details 259-4866 or www.niwgothamparty.org

June

6/2: Gemini Party at Blu Bar $7/free to all Gemini- Tabu Entertainment

6/4: Nashville PRIDE Festival: Centennial Park

6/4: Southern Classic Drag King Extravaganza: The French Quarter Cafe'

6/5: Girl Party: $7, 9pm-3am at Play- 1519 Church Street

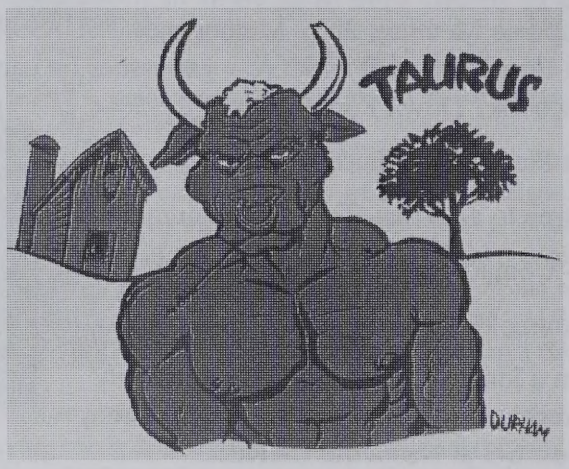
6/11: NBP Planning Team Mgt, Nashville CARES 2-4pm

6/16: Y-BU Meeting, 7pm TBA- Contact Anyon at 259-4866 x 221

6/18-19: Memphis Black Pride #10: Natural Disastesr! (Fathers Day weekend Road Trip!!) (901) 331-3438

6/25: SIMBE Social # 15, The Onyx Room-$7 before midnight, $10 after. OraSure testers pay $3.

April 7 * May 5 * June 2



Birthday Parties

These zodiac themed events are sponsored by Tabu Entertainment and take place every first Thursday of the month at Blu Bar & Night Club located at 1713 Church Street. Each person who is the zodiac of the month get in free w/I.D and get on free cocktail. Come out and enjoy great music by DJ TY & free refreshments. For details more you can e-mail tabu_enertainment@hotmail.com.

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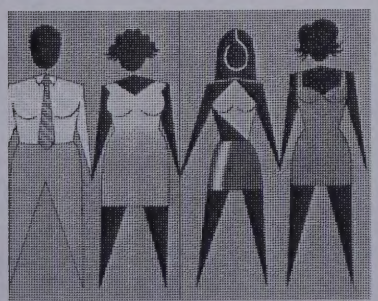

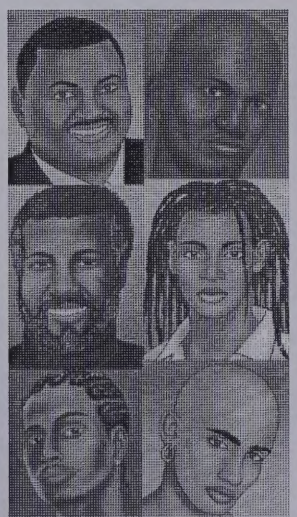

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July 28-31, 2005

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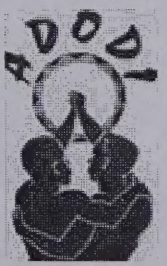

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* *Looking for someplace to mingle that's not loud & smokey?*
* *Tired of searching the internet to find a new buddy or hook up?*
* *Come get some conversation and face to face stimulation at...*

Saturday, April 23

7-10pm @ Nashville CARES

This new Brothers United event allows men to gather in a safe space to chat, play cards & other board games, or simply hangout. You can join us after you attend a happy hour, or before your night either ends or gets started. It's free, they'll be plenty of Men & snacks so stop by...

Brothers United & YBU Programs, Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207
For more details or directions call 615 259 4866 x 269 or e-mail us at brosunited@aol.com

THE SOURCE 2005

The Official Newsletter of Brothers United Nashville & affiliate chapters
WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images
Volume 7, Issue 51

JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

In This issue:

The birth of Sisters United

Nashville Black Pride Team sponsors Summer activities

Photography: barry.a.noland ©

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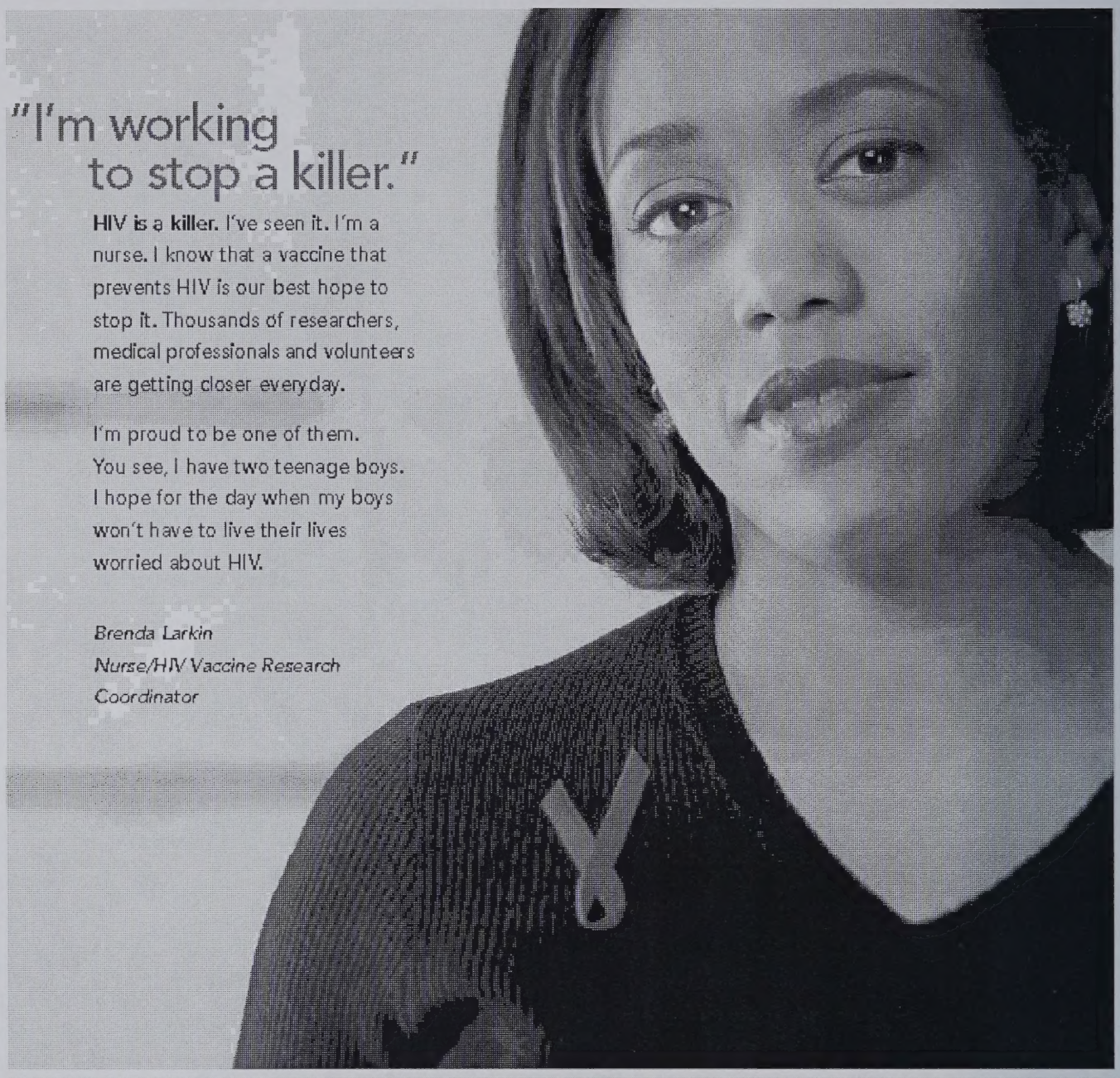
"I'm working
to stop a killer."
HIV is a killer. I've seen it. I'm a nurse. I know that a vaccine that prevents HIV is our best hope to stop it. Thousands of researchers, medical professionals and volunteers are getting closer everyday.
I'm proud to be one of them. You see, I have two teenage boys. I hope for the day when my boys won't have to live their lives worried about HIV.
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Nurse/HIV Vaccine Research Coordinator

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THE SOURCE 2005

This newsletter is published quarterly for all the volunteers of the Brothers United Network of Tennessee chapters and other regional affiliates that provide HIV/AIDS prevention outreach and education. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by BU, Y-BU, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride or Nashville CARES. Names and pictures of persons appearing in any of THE SOURCE issues are no indication of sexual orientation or health status.

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Agency web-site: www.nashvillecares.org

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Our newsletter is released quarterly

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS STRICTLY PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status or be considered "out" to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc
Providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation since 1996

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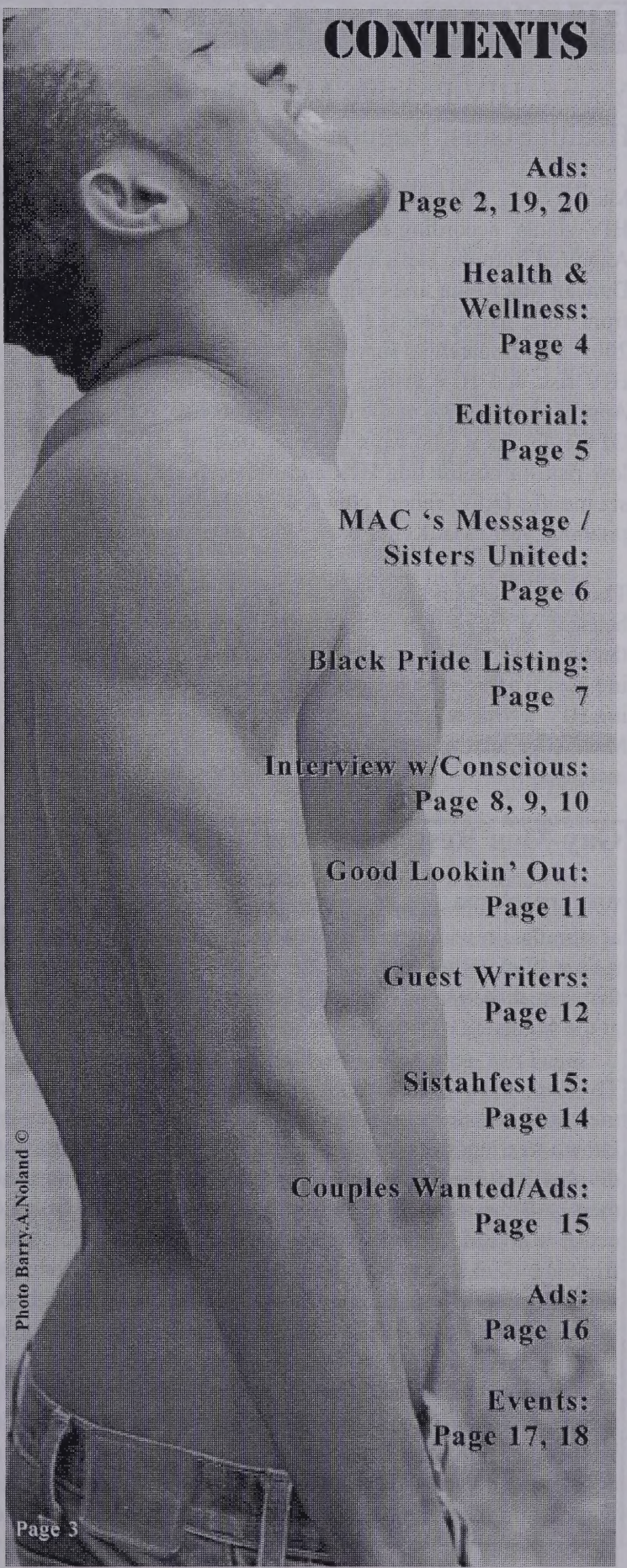


Photo Barry.A.Noland ©

BU Health & Wellness Corner

Young, HIV-Positive Men who have Sex with Men Unaware of Health Status; Regular Testing Needed!

Many young, HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM) are unaware of their HIV status, according to a study published in the April 15 issue of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes, Reuters Health reports. CDC epidemiologist Duncan MacKellar and colleagues studied more than 5,600 men ages 15 to 29 recruited from bars, parks, cafes, stores and other venues in six U.S. cities between 1994 and 2000. The researchers surveyed each of the men about their sexual behavior, perceived HIV risk and HIV testing history and collected blood samples for HIV testing (Norton, Reuters Health, 4/26). Approximately 10% of the men tested positive for HIV, and 77% were unaware of their status, according to the study. Of the 439 men who were unaware of their HIV-positive status, 59% had indicated that they thought they were at low risk for contracting HIV and 51% reported having unprotected anal sex with another man during the previous six months (AFP/Yahoo! News, 4/26). More than half of the men with unrecognized HIV had not been tested in the previous year (MacKellar et al., Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes, 4/15).

The researchers said that the findings are "probably not reflective" of the larger MSM population in the United States because of the study's recruiting method, Reuters Health reports. However, MacKellar said the study "underscores the urgency" of increased HIV testing among MSM. He said limited access to health care services and a fear of testing positive might be reasons for the lack of regular testing observed in the study. The researchers suggested expanding HIV testing services at clubs and bars in order to reach more men who are unaware of their HIV-positive status. MacKellar also said it is important for physicians to recommend routine HIV testing for patients who have an increased risk of contracting the virus (Reuters Health, 4/26).

Gay Men Respond Differently To Pheromones

WASHINGTON - Gay men's brains respond differently from those of heterosexual males when exposed to a sexual stimulus, researchers have found. The homosexual men's brains responded more like those of women when the men sniffed a chemical from the male hormone testosterone. "It is one more piece of evidence ... that is showing that sexual orientation is not all learned," said Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

The study exposed heterosexual men and women and homosexual men to chemicals derived from male and female sex hormones. These chemicals are thought to be pheromones — molecules known to trigger responses such as defense and sex in many animals. The Swedish researchers divided 36 subjects into three groups — heterosexual men, heterosexual women and homosexual men. All the subjects were healthy, unmedicated, right-handed and HIV negative. When they sniffed smells like cedar or lavender, all of the subjects' brains reacted only in the olfactory region that handles smells. But when confronted by a chemical from testosterone, the male hormone, portions of the brains active in sexual activity were activated in straight women and in gay men, but not in straight men. Homosexual men had their primary response also in the olfactory area, while heterosexual men responded strongly in the reproductive region of the brain.

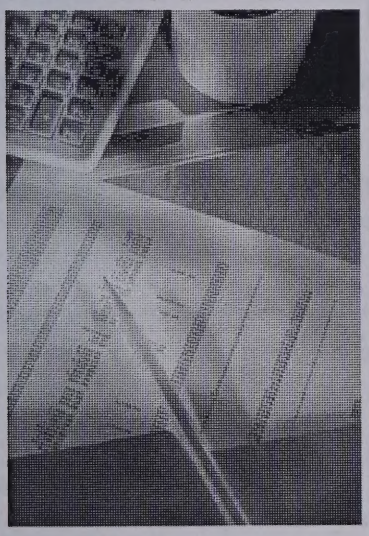
In a separate study looking at people's response to the body odors of others, researchers in Philadelphia found sharp differences between gay and straight men and women.They found that gay men differed from heterosexual men and women and from lesbian women, both in terms of which body odors gay men preferred and how their own body odors were regarded by the other groups. Gay men preferred odors from gay men, while odors from gay men were the least preferred by heterosexual men and women and by lesbian women in the study.

From Where We Sit

Hello BU SOURCE Readers

After reading my Editorial column last issue, a good friend of mine commented that I must've been in a rush, and felt that I just wrote something to be writing to fill the space. Once he said it I had to laugh because there was definitely some truth to what he said. As a health educator I speak to people everyday, most of the day. It's what I do. As a publisher, one of my main duties is to try to create a non intrusive flow that educates, entertains, and empowers the reader. After his comment, I had to admit to myself that I didn't want to come off preachy in this section because folks may take it the wrong way and be turned off by it. As soon as that thought pop in my mind, my partner was clicking through some channels on TV and we ended up listening to a whole bunch of other people's crappy comments. I came to the conclusion that my opinions within the context of my work and history can and should be expressed, freely and unapologetically. So from now on, I'm speaking my mind again, and if you don't agree, cool. Each and everyone of our voices is important to the growth, nurturing, and well being of the Same Gender Loving (SGL) community. If we don't speak up for ourselves and the things we believe in, nobody will.

Now with all that said, I would like to speak on the "Art of Giving". It has been my experience that a majority of Black Gay/SGL men and women in Nashville are tight with their coins when it comes to charity donations. Don't go putting your hands on your hips yet, you'll have plenty of time to do so a few more sentences down. I realize that many of us did not grown up in charitable households. However as we mature, I've noticed that some people just don't give a damn or feel that when we do give, we need to receive someting back immediately. Church folk, I'm not talking about your tithes and offerings. We've been conditioned and frightened into giving that for the saving of our souls. I'm specifically talking about giving money to the organization(s) of your choice that needs and depends on our financial assistance. No, no, I'm not trying to spend your hard earned money, but I am suggesting that we step back and think. We all are connected to a cause that warrants our help. If you know someone with HIV, Cancer, or a addiction, you should [feel somewhat obligated to] help in whatever way you can financially. If you can only give a few bucks to that particular cause, great, you've done something! Your giving can also be done in honor of a person or because it's just something good to do within the universe. Yeah, I know it really sounds like I'm trying to spend your money now, but come on people. We've got to balance and budget our spending and begin to help put positive energy back into our community efforts. It's 2005 and time to put our money where our mouth is. Let's call-out our folk and bring this type of thing to the surface. If we don't begin to financailly support our organizations and causes, I truly think that it will be an economic down fall for the Gay/SGL communities of color. We shouldn't expect the government to always take care of us through grants and other funding opportunities. It's funny; most people are always willing to give you their opinions on how *this* and *that* could be better, but never around to help plan, develop or execute it. That wouldn't be half bad, if some of the "talkers" would turn around and say, "*hey I'm not into sitting around in a meeting, but here is a few dollars to help make what you are doing a little easier*". And here's a thought, for those who truly can't afford to support, remember that your time, whether it's a few hours here and there, is just as rewarding. It's never too late to start giving back to your community. The talents and positive energy that you share with others is sure to come back to you in one way or another. Being better stewarts of our time and money, with respect to community involvement and development, will allow us as individuals to grow outside of ourselves and circumstances. I believe that all of the messages we're fed through magazines and television that promote a self centric way of thinking can be altered if we just try. Let's do it together. - Dwayne Jenkins, Editor



The Source of this message is from

MAC Productions

I'd like to thank all of the 16 Ladies who attended our first official business meeting as a Lesbian Group in Nashville. It was a nice start to a historic beginning for the newly formed Sisters United group. We are a bold & energetic bunch ready to become a solid force in the community.

Mission: To promote self empowerment and community building for Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Women of Color in Nashville & Middle Tennessee.

Goal: To create a platform for Lesbian Women of Color to voice & advocate needs, receive referral and support services, as well as to promote health education awareness.

Vision: To socialize and network in a safe, culturally sensitive environment to empower & inspire Lesbian Women to grow as individuals while uniting to build a stronger community.

Photo above of Founding Members include; Mac, Stallion, Erica, Crystal, Jessica, Angela, Melissa, Nicole, Sabrina, Detra, Carolyn, Shetika, Sunshine, Nubian, Tangila, and Maxine.

ROAD TRIPS!

July 17: Ms. Femme Finesse Pageant by Franklin Productions in Atlanta, Ga. Featuring MAC PRODUCTIONS. We will be sponsoring Sunshine.

August 5-7: Jacksonville Florida Black Pride

August 12, 13 & 14: St. Louis Black Pride

Call 615 498-1956 or email MACPRODUCTIONSPAGEANT@yahoo.com for any additional information. We are looking forward to seeing you at our events and all of the Nashville Black Pride activites this summer.

Congratulations to all of our 2005 *SGL* Graduates!

Jessica @ TSU
Miguel @ TSU
Melissa @ TSU
Ernest @ FISK
Eric @ FISK
Jason @ Vanderbilt
& everyone else we may have missed.

International Federation of Black Prides

Official 2005 Black Pride Schedule:
July - November

AT THE BEACH (ATB) LOS ANGELES, CA — JULY 1 - 4
323 293-4282 / atbla@aol.com / www.atbla.com

WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE — JULY 1- 4
lflennoy@aol.co / www.windycitypride.org

CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE — JULY 14 -17
813 873-1888 / Riccrollins@aol.com /
www.floridablackpride.net

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK PRIDE — JULY 15 - 17
www.charlottencpride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY — JULY 27 - 31
313 567-1863 / info@hotterthanjuly.com /
www.hotterthanjuly.com

TORONTO BLACK PRIDE — JULY 28 - 30
416 925-9875 x 2135 / la1265@yahoo.ca /
torontoblackpride.com

CLEVELAND BLACK UNITY PRIDE — AUGUST 1-7
216 472-3474 / bucinfo@yahoo.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blackunitycelebration

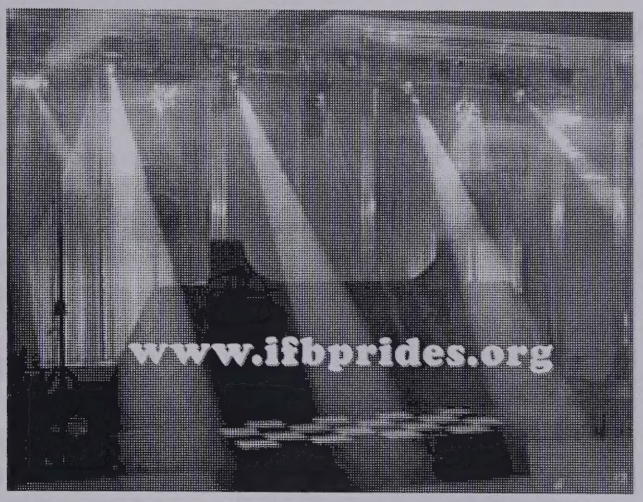
PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE — AUGUST 5-7
412-657-0142 / peerpastors@hotmails.com

JACKSONVILLE FL BLACK PRIDE — AUGUST 6- 8
904-858-3757 / jaxbp@aol.com / www.jaxxblkpride.com

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE — AUGUST 12 -14
314 645-6451x211 / agalloway@stlefa.org /
www.stlouisblackpride.org

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE — AUGUST 11 -14
612-414-2102 / www.minnesotasoulessence.com

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO — AUGUST 27
619-515-3606 / info@ebonypride.org / www.ebonypride.org



ATLANTA — AUGUST 31 - SEP TEMBER 5
404 872-6410 / info@intheatl.com / www.inthelifeatl.com

DALLAS — SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2
214 734-8007 / Garfield@msn.com
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK PRIDE — OCTOBER 7- 9
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org / bmoreblackpride.org

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE — OCTOBER 6-9
510 268-0646 / tbhcafe@pacbell.net
californiablackprides.org

MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE — OCTOBER 6-9
601 942-6817 / mrobinson@murc.org

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE — OCTOBER 28 – 30
800 845-4266 X 269 / brosunited@aol.com
brothersunited.com

NEW ORLEANS BLACK PRIDE — NOVEMBER 26-28
504 524-2968/337 526-0629
info@neworleansblackpride.com

For updates, schedual listings and other information check out the official International Federation of Black Prides website at www.ifbprides.org.

All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please contact the individual city for more details on host hotels and activity listings. Provided by Brothers United Network, Inc. & The International Federation of Black Prides Organization, Inc.

An interview with *Conscious*, an HIV Positive Black Lesbian

Taken from the prettytomboys.com website

When I was handed this assignent, I was floored. HIV transmission woman to woman. Yes, I read their had been cases, but I had never encountered any sister that had been infected by another woman. I don't think they would tell anyone, even if that was the case. That kind of honesty is rare.

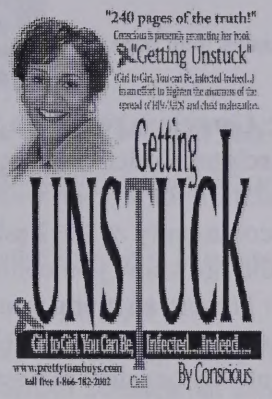
I sent Conscious an E-mail about the magazine's interest in interviewing her. She answered our request back without hesitation. That took me off-balance for a moment. Why? Because interviewing writers or people for print is usually a waiting game. With some people dangling the carrot to see what you would do to get an interview with them. Not Conscious, she was polite, giving and real. I held the interview in her home, where I was greeted by her dog, Egypt.

If I wasn't an aggressive woman, I might have been intimidated by Conscious. She's tall {6'1"}, strong and bold with soft brown eyes looking through her trendy glasses. Her home is comfortable and laid back, situated in a quiet neighborhood. She invited me in and I sat on her big, roomy and soft sectional. She seemed shy and nervous at first, but she got comfortable with me quickly. I think I was more anxious than she was, I had so many questions, yet I wanted to be sensitive.

MC: Why the pen name "Conscious" ?
Conscious: The name was developed and created. You see, for some years I was unconscious. For years my body, mind and spirit lived in a coma. Through therapy I regained the memory of my childhood. I started to repair my life by getting free of alcohol and drugs. I was cleaning up my soul. I regained myself and became Conscious.
MC: So your becoming conscious was like a rebirth?
Conscious: Yes, it was my coming out of that mental coma.
MC: What gave you the strength and courage to write *Getting Unstuck*?
Conscious: I believe that strength came from getting clean from drugs and alcohol. I stopped abusing drugs, myself and women. You see, I believe we are sent messages. These voices guide us to help others if we choose to listen. I wrote this book to help save children and other people from the trauma I went through in my life.
MC: How long did this book take to write?
Conscious: Three years. I was working in television when I first started the book. The rigors of working in that medium, with its twelve hour days and sometimes overnight projects did not afford me the time nor concentration to work on my book. I left television and went to work in a job that offered me a more regular schedule. This gave me the time I needed to write *Getting Unstuck.*
MC: Why did you name the book *Getting Unstuck*?
Conscious: I was stuck in a path of self-destruction even when I had positive situations come in my life. I still migrated toward drugs and alcohol. Because of all the holes in my soul, I was chained to the "Get High" life. Through getting sober and clean, in addition with therapy I got unstuck from the *lie of a life* I was living.
MC: What is the most important influence in your life?
Conscious: I have a conversation with God everyday. My greatest influence is my conversation with God and my inner peace. This gives me the strength I need. My awareness and understanding are so heightened, that if I had to leave this earth right now, I would be at peace with my life now!
MC: I must inquire, what are you like as a person? How do you think of yourself?

continued next page

Interview with Conscious continued from page 8



Conscious: One-on-one as friends, I'm complex, moody, even simple sometimes. I have many ranges. I slip in and out of character. I have times when I'm rough and rugged, thug like. Sometimes I'm motherly, sometimes childlike or maybe soft. I'm not saying I have multiple personalities. As a friend, you would know how to approach me. You would be able to read my face. I am sensitive and laid back. My life is quiet and simple. I found out my birthday coincides with National Black HIV and AIDS Awareness Day. That was February 07, 2002. It's one of the signs God has sent me to know that I'm doing my work.

MC: How do you deal with being HIV positive? Has the disease affected your interaction in the Lesbian community?

Conscious: It has affected the way I am in the community Big Time. First, know that being HIV+ is a state of mind. When I first found out, I thought I was going to die soon. I started reading about the disease and the advances in medicine. I found out you could live with the disease. I constantly monitor my T-Cell count and my viral load. I eat right, I'm a vegetarian now and I keep myself clean. I don't use soap on my face and I take vitamins. I don't drink or do drugs. When I go out clubbing, I don't cross my own personal line. I don't approach women trying to get intimate with them. I just don't want to have to put myself out there like that. I don't want to have to explain my HIV status with every woman I date. There is no way I could date a woman and not tell her. I could not risk another person's life. When women approach me, I'll have a conversation or dance with them but I don't cross the line. Anyway, I have a girlfriend, she knows my status. We have been together for six years now. She is HIV negative and we are safe with each other.

MC: Why did you become involved with the drug culture?

Conscious: I grew up in it. My mother was part of the Hustle game. I started drinking at an early age. My mom liked the fast life and was into material things. So, that was our lifestyle. I looked up to Pimps, Drug dealers and Number runners. I even wanted to be a number runner.

MC: How is your relationship with your Mom?

Conscious: Turbulent! I think we are so much alike we are at the opposite ends of the spectrum. As a child I feared my mother. She provided, gave me things, material things, but not her love. That is what I really needed, her love and protection. We don't deal much now. I can't be a part of her element. I have made a conscious choice to stay clean and sober. She has not. I love my mother, but can't live in her world.

MC: Do you have brothers and sisters? What is your relationship like with them?

Conscious: I have a sister and two brothers. My eldest brother and I don't speak much. My sister lives upstairs and my little brother lives down south. We are cool. My sister is great. She's okay about the book. She is not terribly excited. I broke the family rule; you know, *what is done in the house, stays in the house*. You don't go telling people what goes on in the house. I'm telling these sick secrets, so I can help end the madness.

MC: How or why did you get out of using and selling drugs?

Conscious: I hit rock bottom. Then, God sent me a message. God told me to leave the place I was in. God told me He had a great work for me to do. I got help from my sister and went into a treatment program and into therapy.

MC: Let's talk about therapy. Why did you accept therapy? How do you think therapy is viewed in the African-American community?

Conscious: I wanted to get better. It was the only way I could regain my repressed childhood memories. It was the only way I could heal. I learned that our secrets keep us stuck in our mental garbage. To answer your question about the African-American community and therapy. Therapy in the African-American community is Taboo! That is why we aren't getting the help we need. Our sick family secrets keep us in trauma, drama and stress. It's why we have murderers and serial killers in our society at large. Our rule in black families is *don't tell your business* and that code keeps our folks stuck. You have to realize that I had a breakthrough after seven months of therapy. I thought about how much better in life I could have been, if I had of received the help I needed early in my life. It probably would have saved me from contracting HIV.

conclusion on page 10

Continued from page 9

MC: Conscious, what are your plans for the future?
Conscious: To let God use me and get the word out about HIV and child sexual abuse. It is my hope to build a foundation for women with HIV who have been infected by other women. This is just not an area that the medical community or the Lesbian community is dealing with effectively. Just the other day, a woman told me that she did not know you could get HIV woman to woman. She was dead serious and that is frightening.
MC: Is there anything you would like to express that we might have not covered during this interview?
Conscious: I have some celebrities I want to reach out to, because I see these people in the headlines all the time. It is mostly negative press about their alleged drug use or them acting out because of drug abuse. Please, Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown, DMX and Robert Downey Jr. get help, treatment or therapy. Don't let your internal demons drag you down. If you see yourself in my story, tell someone and reach out and get some help. For the women in our communities negotiate and practice safe sex. Be safe sisters; you don't have to die from HIV or AIDS. Let me be your example. Let me be the sacrifice. Know that woman to woman HIV transmission is a reality. Read about my life, protect yours!!!
MC: Thank you Conscious for inviting us into your home and sharing your life by writing *Getting Unstuck.*

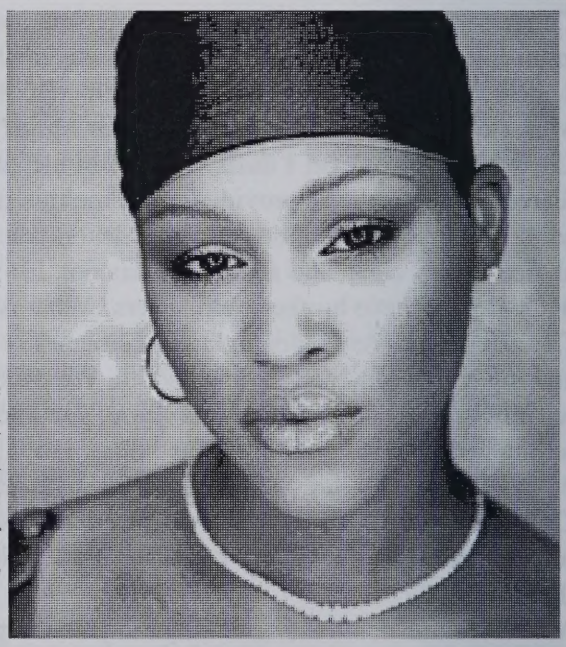
SABLE MAGAZINE

Rapper Eve slated to portray Conscious in movie. Read article below

Originally published by SABLE Magazine, www.sablemagazine.com

EVE ROLES TAKE ON HIV ISSUES

Showtime movie and TV episode flex rapper's acting range.



Rapper and TV star Eve is honing her acting skills. The rap-actress, who plays a feisty fashion designer on her popular TV sitcom and gained a few additional fans for her role as the feisty she-barber in the "Barbershop" films is switching it up, literally, for her next role. She will play a lesbian in an original Showtime movie *Getting Unstuck.*

Eve, who is also executive producer of the film, plays the title role of ***Conscious***, a former producer of the short-lived talk show "The Queen Latifah Show." The show is based on Conscious' autobiography *Getting Unstuck: Girl to Girl, You Can Be Infected Indeed.* The film/book is about how the author worked her way through drugs, abuse, homelessness, and HIV to a successful career.

In other Eve news, her TV show will focus an episode on the HIV/AIDS issue. The producers of the show were inspired to develop an HIV-positive character "who is living life to the fullest." The episode follow Eve's character, Shelly, who is urged by her new boyfriend, to get tested. And Shelly convinces her friends to join her. The clinic counselor is played by the young man who inspired the episode -- Marteniz Brown, a 24 year-old who was diagnosed with HIV at 18.

Lee Bailey's EUR/Electronic Urban Report
The EUR is factual online infotainment on today's hottest celebrities, events and issues in urban/black entertainment and culture.
For your FREE internet subscription, send e-mail to:EURmail-subscribe@topica.com

TranSistahs & TransBrothas Defying Gravity Convention- September 14th-19th

The Legendary Galt House Hotel & Suites, Louisville, Kentucky ***www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net***

Sponsored by Southerners on New Ground, Fairness Campaign - No More Lies, International Foundation for Gender Education, and The Greater Louisville Metro Chamber of Commerce

The mission of *TransSistahs/TransBrothas - Defying Gravity* is to uplift & encourage our African-American transgender sistahs & brothas, challenge the negative stereotypes about us while offering positive solutions to identifiable problems within our community, support one another through spiritual and emotional supportive structures, and build a unified African-American trans-community. The group is primarily for African-American pre-, post-, and non-operational transgendered identifiable individuals (and/or supporters) who wish to intelligently discuss the issues that face us as people of color and approach commonly associated areas of life with logic and understanding. We enthusiastically welcome our African-American F-t-M brothas, African-American crossdressers, and our GLBT&S allies and supporters of all races and genders to join and broaden our discussions and understanding from a particular viewpoint.

WHY THIS CONFERENCE?
by Monica Roberts

You may ask, why are we holding this convention for African-American transpeople? Honestly, it was time to build an infrastructure and support system similar to what the Caucasian transcommunity have built up over the last 20 years. We need one that is not only created and controlled by us but also reflects our cultural heritage. We need to meet with and network with each other, and those meetings must include our transbrothas. We must talk about the programs that African-American transpeeps in various parts of the country have created, discuss what works, what doesn't and implement it in our own areas when we return home. We must also lay the groundwork for interactions with allies and supporters in the mainstream African-American and African-American GLBT/SGL communities.

African-American transpeople have been adrift because of the lack of organization. We have allowed ourselves to become separated into factions that don't speak to each other: Street girls vs. club girls; real world girls vs. pageant girls; stealth girls vs. c.d.'s; our transmen left out of the equation. It needs to end now! We have too many of us, like our transbrothas, who feel isolated from their fellow transpeople because they believe that they're the "only ones". We have others wishing to start the transition journey but don't have access to up-to-date information or have been given erroneous knowledge by their peers. The helping professionals that are supposed to assist us have rebuffed many of our people. Some of our Caucasian transgendered allies have repeatedly disrespected us. We are suffering from low self-esteem and shame and guilt issues. Many of our people are struggling with HIV/AIDS and educational/employment problems.

So how do we build that communal infrastructure? It won't happen overnight, but at the historic Galt House Hotel on the banks of the Ohio River is where we will take the first steps to jump-start the process. We'll also have some fun while we're doing it. We need unity. It is time for us to determine our own path. It will take collective work and responsible people to ensure that this convention is a success. We want to give African-American businesses inside and outside the GLBT/SGL community the first chance to act as our suppliers. We want to give them an opportunity to display their products and services at our convention marketplace. Our purpose is to construct a unified African-American transcommunity built upon our values. This convention will showcase our creativity and leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we started this effort. We are a people of faith and deep religious convictions who believe in a higher power. That faith is what binds us all together in addition to our shared history. That faith has guided us through many stormy periods and will lead us to a brighter future.

How Well Do You Do You? by Robert Darden

Recently, in an online email group that I belong to, a question was asked of the members of the group: Do you accept yourself for who you are? The individual who put forth the question went on to ask if we truly accepted ourselves for who we truly are. He added, "Acceptance of self is THE most important thing in life; we just often fail to realize it. Often, we want this man or that organization to want us, and we put on our best for them, but we neglect ourselves in the process." He went on to say that the biggest reason that self-acceptance is so important is because sometimes some of us can get so caught up in maintaining an image and/or living for someone other than ourselves that we often, repeatedly, find ourselves in situations that are rife with confusion and drama, and, eventually, we wreak so much havoc on ourselves, that it spills out onto everybody around us, until we, some of us, find ourselves desiring to put a "very final end" to the problems that we ourselves created…

One of the responses his question garnered was that "Self acceptance in the gay community tends to manifest itself in one of two ways: arrogance or flamboyancy", which, as sad as that may seem, is absolutely true. To a certain extent, self-acceptance does often get misread as arrogance and/or flamboyancy. But in those cases, it's most often done so by folks who haven't yet truly accepted themselves, and are unwilling to accept the fact that somebody else may know and love the person he knows and accepts himself to be. Accepting yourself allows you to see others for who they really are, regardless of how they appear to you; when you come across someone who's got his shit together, if your shit's tight as well, you'll recognize one another.

For me, it's been a mighty long time since I've worried about what anyone thought of me. It took some time and effort to get to that space, but I came to realize that regardless of whether somebody likes, loves, or hates me, none of that is even about me. So, the only person that I've put any effort into wonderin' whether or not he's checkin' for me is me. Of course, along with that comes some of that perceived arrogance, and because of that I do tend to alienate a few folk that I thought could/would be there for me. But, as long as I know, love, and accept me for Me, everything always falls into place… When the time is right. So, do what it takes for you to reach that space where you accept yourself, if you're not already there. There may be some folk who wanna' bring you back around to their side of life, but whose life you wanna' live? Theirs or Yours? Who's gon' do you better than You?

An Open Letter to *SOURCE* Readers

I am truly excited to be able to share my thoughts with the beautiful Black Gay & Lesbian Community of Nashville. I read about The BU SOURCE last year through another local paper and ultimately called Dwayne to get on the mailing list. He was great in helping me feel comfortable about my sexuality and didn't judge me because of my current living situation. He suggested that I submit a letter or article and I took him up on his offer. You see, I have been in prison since 1994 and have had to live as a straight man to maintain a trouble free incarceration. Even though I have met many Gay men inside like myself, they also hide their sexuality because it's a safe way to do time. It is hard because our conversations and experiences have to be based on women. Unfortunately, men then go on to live double lives, and hurting others emotionally when they are released. I realized that if I wanted to have my story heard, I would have to tell it. I have written articles to the editor of another paper and received a few responses but they were more interested in the way that I looked instead of the person that I am inside. I guess being angry about that is childish, but what ever happened to just being friends and pen pals? Be that as it may, I am stepping out in the open and ready to explore other positive influences and possibilities. Thanks Dwayne and The SOURCE for all you do for the community. I plan on submitting other writings soon and happy for the opportunity to share my experiences. Gregory A. Dalton # 662, 7475 Cockrill Bend Blvd - RMSI 6B101, Nashville TN 37209.

Brothers United Winter Retreat # 9: *Rejuvenation*

Montgomery Bell State Park & Conference Center, December 1-4, Burns TN

Contact: (800) 845-4266 x 269 / brosunited@aol.com / www.brothersunited.com

Accommodations: Double beds, TV, window and bathroom.

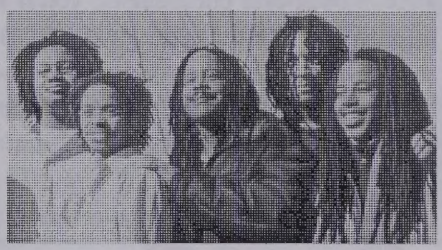
What is provided? (6) buffet style meals, commemorative shirt/item, all workshops/activities, indoor pool, outdoor hot tub & exercise facility.

How much does it cost? $180 for all returning guests, and $199 for all others before Sept. 1. The cost increases to $225 afterwards. Final payments due by Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005.

How do you pay? Money Orders or on-line through PAYPAL(an additional $8 Fee is required) under bronetwktn@aol.com. Refunds must be requested before Sept. 30, 2005. No refunds will be issued after Oct. 31, 2005.

How do you get to the site? Please use a free internet mapping system such as www.mapquest.com. The address for Montgomery Bell Hotel & Conference Center is 1000 Hotel Avenue, Burns, TN 37029. Participants that fly will be provided with round trip airport shuttle service. For site details visit www.tnstateparks.com

How many are you expecting and what are the ages of participants? Between 50-80 men are expected this year and the age of participants is between 18 -70 years old. All minors have written parental permission to attend. No worries, no drama!



How far is the site from each Brothers United Chapter? The site is 50 miles from Nashville, 161 from Chattanooga, 186 from Memphis & West TN, 218 from Knoxville.

The Atmosphere of our gathering is non-sexual in nature (give or take a workshop on relationships and safer sex). To ensure that brothas' maintain a respectful and sex positive relationships with one another, we've developed a simple coding system using red, green and yellow dots to distinguish information about one another on each of our name tags. The overall vibe is very relaxed and gives participants a chance to explore issues of identity, spirituality, and sexuality. It is facilitated in a non-threatening and culturally sensitive forum. At times it can be entertaining, provocative and emotional. Although the majority of participants live in the Tennessee, we welcome friends from out of state to join us for these historical gatherings.

Previous statements taken from evaluations:

"I think it's important to gather and fellowship with like minded brothers in this life".

"This retreat helps us uplift one another as we go through our individual journeys as Black Gay Men. Don't ever stop having these".

"I came to escape, but found brotherhood".

Sistahfest 15! September 22-25, 2005 Los Angeles

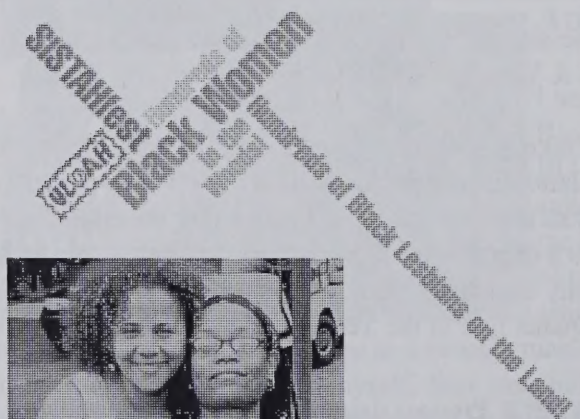
Registration for our fifteenth annual black lesbian retreat is now open! We have heard from many of you who attended Sistahfest last year and told us that it was our best one yet. There was incredible energy, warmth, connection, and love on the Land that weekend. Plus, it was a lot of fun. Whether you are an old friend who has been coming to Sistahfest for years or whether this will be your first time, one thing we know for sure is that you won't be disappointed and that you will help us create, "a new world for the weekend."

A New World for the Weekend

Every fall, Sistahs come from all over the country, and from distant cities around the world, to create Sistahfest, our own Black lesbian retreat. Just miles up the Los Angeles coast we gather to transform the 120 private, wooded acres, just steps from the beach, into our own vibrant and nurturing SISTAHspace. Nestled away in nature's canyon, we discover our true common ground.We create a new world for the weekend; a world of discovery, acceptance, possibilities, and celebration!

Workshops, Music, Sports and More!: Sistahfest offers dozens of interactive workshops, lively discussion groups, and a dazzling array of performances, including comedy, dramatic readings, musicians, vocalists and dance. For sports enthusiasts, you'll have plenty of opportunity to work up a sweat with softball, and volleyball, and don't miss the riotous relay races!

For Lovers of Nature: For the experienced nature lover or camper, you'll enjoy the beautiful and serene wooded environment, perfect for pitching a tent, taking a hike, or just sitting beneath the old oak canopies.



And Comfortable Rooms!: And, for women who are definitely not campers, take our word for it, at Sistahfest, in no time you'll feel right at home. While it's not the Hilton, Sistahfest offers a range of comfortable lodging, and SISTAHsupport including golf cart shuttles to assist you.

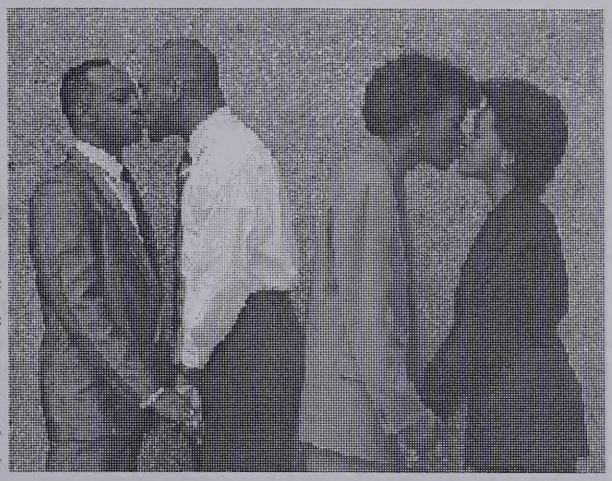
Plus All of Your Sistahfest Favorites!

Sixties Soul Pajama Jam, Quick Dates, SistahSingles, Wealth Building for Sistahs, Afrikan Drumming & Dance Class, Ultimate Butch / femme, Healing with Whole Foods, Sistah Idol, (Linda Hunt returns to defend her title!), Validation Ceremony, Hell Hike, Black Lesbian Film Festival.

Please call 323-960-5051, visit www.uloah.com or e-mail us at uloah@aol.com for more information,or to be placed on our online or postal mail mailing lists!

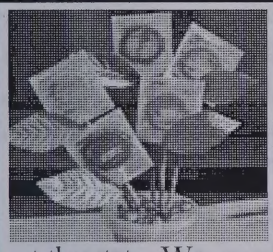
United Lesbians of African Heritage
1626 N. Wilcox Ave., #190, Los Angeles, CA 90028

Calling All Couples



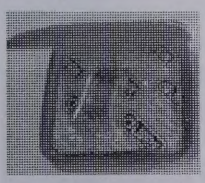
In preparation for Nashville Black Pride, we are asking all Gay & Lesbian Couples of Color, including Interracial, to register with us for our annual SGL Couples Recognition Ceremony. Last year we acknowledged over 15 couples ranging from 6 months to 20 years of being together. Please contact us and give us the first names of each person, and the total time you have been in a relationship with each other.

This will also help our new effort to bring local couples together with other couples to socialize and make new friends. Gathering can be as simple as meeting for cocktails at a local restaurant and taking over a section with just *US* celebrating the love and unity that others don't want us to acknowledge. What a powerful statement it would be. We already have 10 couples on file, and know there are more out there. Please sign up today!



FREE *BU Party Pack*

As many of you know, Brothers United is an organization that provides both HIV education, community empowerment & mobilization as well as a host of volunteer opportunities targeted to the African American LGBTQ community in Nashville and throughout the state. We are now offering individuals hosting private parites and other gatherings at their home or venue the official BU Party Pack. It includes free safer sex kits with a variety of condoms & lube, as well as a display of brochures, newsletters and other publications and goodies that your guests can help themselves to during your event. Even though it's small enough to place in a corner and not be intrusive, it will attract attention and help to market our efforts, and events such as our SIMBE Socials and Nashville Black Pride to a wider audience. It doesn't matter if you are just having a few friends over or if you are going to have a house full, we've got you covered. Just give us a weeks notice and we can drop it off before and pick it up afterwards. Help us help you to have a fabulous party! Everyone wins in the end, and the support would be appreciated.



The official Nashville Black Pride Party at Opry Mills Mall is just around the corner...

Prepare yourselves for

Rhapsody In Red

The Gibson Showcase, Saturday, October 29, 2005 9pm

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With a current readership of over 700 households in Tennessee and across the country, you will not find a better deal on a subscription price anywhere! Let us be your *source* of info into our ever changing Black Gay world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order out to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.

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Be the first in Nashville to sport our new *Rainbow* PRIDE bands!

Proceeds benefit Nashville Black Pride October 28 - 30, 2005 "Liberation"

NASHVILLE

July:

7/9: SANKOFA: A One Day Retreat for Lesbian Women of Color - 9am-5pm at Nashville CARES. The registration cost is $25 which includes workshops and lunch. Sponsored by COLE Solutions in collaboration with the BU Program & BU Network. Contact Nicole at 615 417-7179 or e-mail *colesolutions@comcast.net.*

7/16: Big Ass Yard $ale # 2: 7am-1pm, 1042 West Greenwood Avenue, in East Nashville. Proceeds benefit Nashville Black Pride. To donate items or to get directions call 974-2832.

7/28-31: 19th Annual Adodi Summer Retreat, July 28-31. For the first time in history, this annual event is being held in the south, right outside Nashville, at Montgomery Bell State Park. A weekend gathering of same-sex loving men of African heritage, where we acknowledge, accept, appreciate, and affirm uniqueness. Registration $300. For details check out www.adodiintl.org

August:

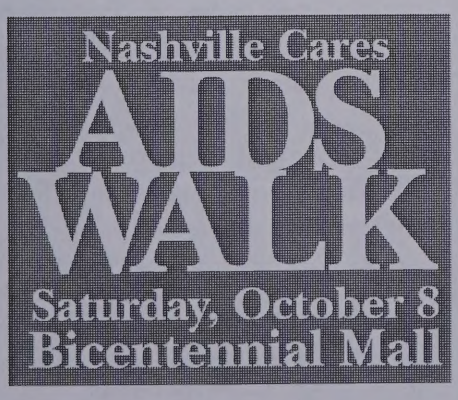
8/20: B.Y.O.BBQ: 12 Noon - 8pm, Cedar Hill Park, Areas 1 & 2. Old Hickory Blvd. at Dickerson Road. We couldn't let the summer heat pass us by without gathering for a good old fashion BBQ. simplicity and cost effectiveness, the whole event is a "Bring Your Own" everything!!! We're providing the location, the effort, and a few other treats, you bring the rest. Come enjoy the out doors with "family"& friends! If you are interested in helping with a few of the details, please contact us ASAP. Sponsored by Nashville Black Pride in association with the BU & YBU Programs at Nashville CARES, MAC Productions and Sisters United.

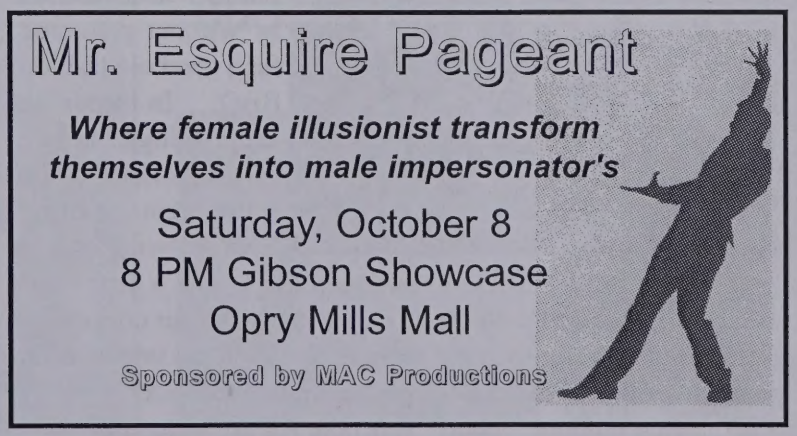
September:

9/17: Nashville Black Pride Planning Team Meeting 4 PM at Nashville CARES

Sisters United Meeting 6 PM at Nashville CARES

The Lobby Mixer: "Tanks & Timbz" Gathering for the Fellas' 8 PM at Nashville CARES




Mr. Esquire Pageant
Where female illusionist transform themselves into male impersonator's
Saturday, October 8
8 PM Gibson Showcase
Opry Mills Mall
Sponsored by MAC Productions

Official Summer Events

Big A$$ Yard $ale #2: Saturday, July 16
7am- 1pm, 1042 West Greenwood Ave

That's right, it's time to clean out those closets, dresser drawers and stored away boxes. The NBP Planning Team is asking that the community help us out and donate usable items and materials to sell during our annual Spring fund raiser. All of the proceeds raised will help the committee make this years Black Pride event in October unforgettable. So, come on out to support us; it's a perfect way to show pride.

We accept furniture, clothing, shoes, kitchen items and everything else in between. To donate or volunteer to help, please contact Dwayne immediately. Remember, Brothers United is a 501c3 non profit organization, and your contributions can be tax deductible! Call 615 259-4866 ext 269 or e-mail brosunited@aol.com.

B.Y.O.BBQ

Saturday, August 20th
Cedar Hill Park Areas 1 & 2
Noon - 9 pm (Rain or Shine)

We couldn't let the summer heat pass us by without gathering for a good old fashion BBQ. In order to keep things simple and cost effective, the entire event is a Bring Your Own everything!!! We're providing the space, the energy, and a few other treats, and all you need is the rest. Come enjoy the out doors with family & friends! Volunteers are needed; so, if you are interested in helping with a few of the details, please contact us ASAP.
This is our first outdoor "*family*" function. All are welcome!

Cookout FYI's

Kids are welcome! There is a play area between the two spaces we rented.

Pets are welcome but must be leashed at all times.

Things to bring:
* A calm, friendly & peaceful spirit.
* Whatever you are eating & drinking!
* All utensils, condements, coal & ice.
* Special dietary needs or medications.
* Bug spray, sunblock, umbrellas for shade.
* Cameras, games, radio/CD player

Things to leave at home:
* All family, work, and baby-momma or daddy related drama & bullshit.

* Any illegal drugs or paraphernalia.
* Alcohol is also not permitted in state parks. If you still indulge, we are not liable. Please be responsible for your actions.

Panels

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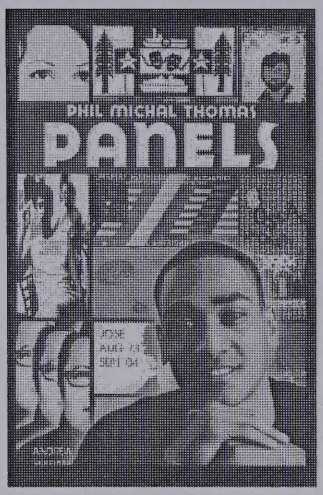

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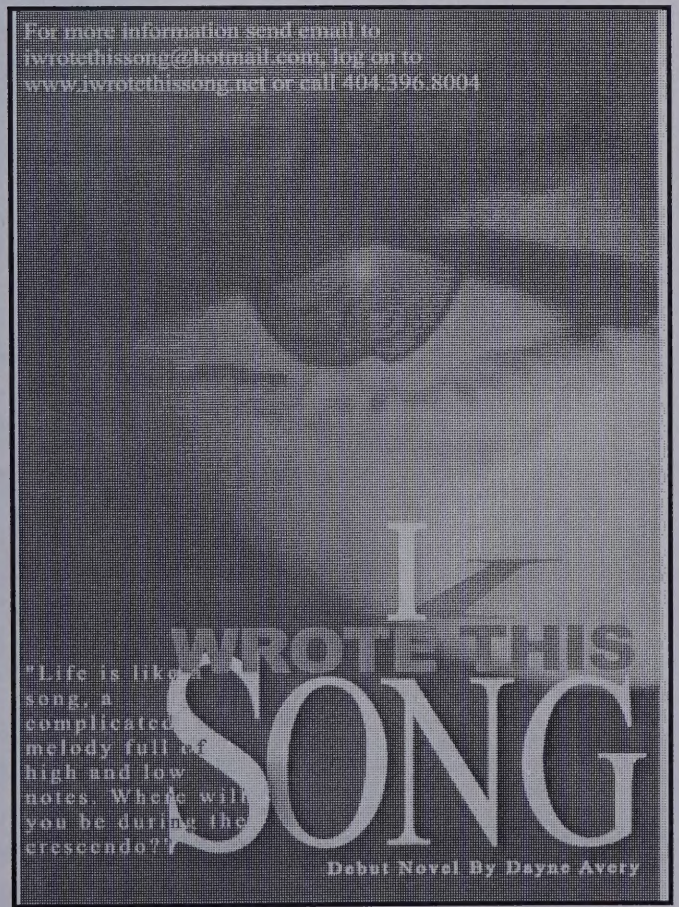

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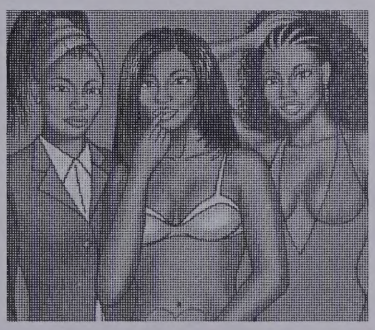
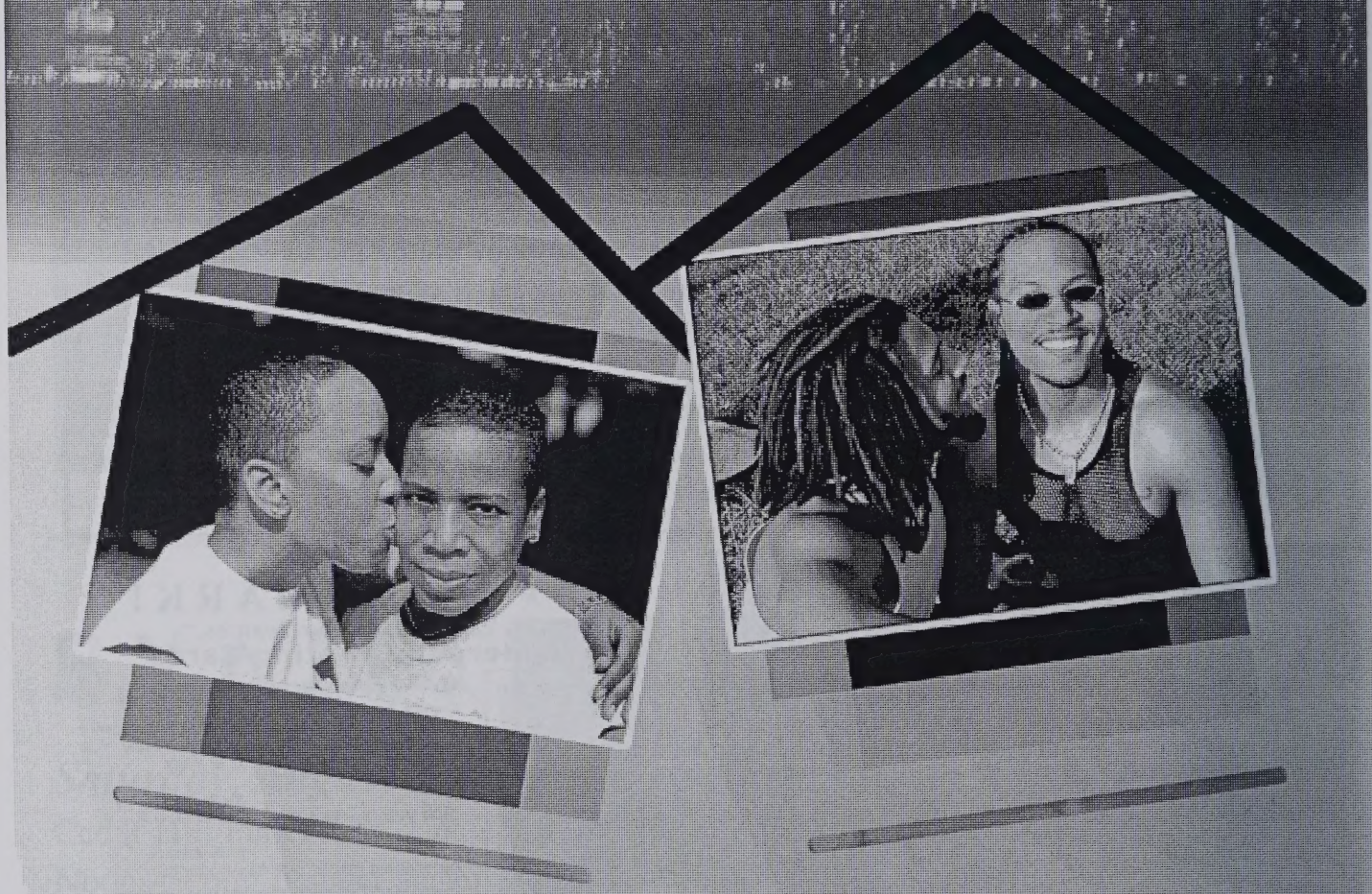


NATIONAL BLACK JUSTICE COALITION

PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES



NBJC

The nation's premier advocates for Black, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights. **www.nbjcoalition.org**

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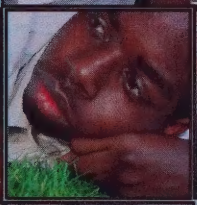
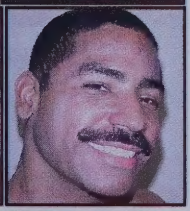
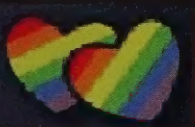




October 27 - 29, 2006

"Changing Hearts & Minds"



The Mini *BASU* SOURCE

The official publication of Brothers & Sisters United Nashville & the BU Network Chapters [Volume 4, Issue 4]

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THE MINI BASU SOURCE

Nashville Black Pride Edition

The ads, articles & opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Names and pictures of persons appearing this issue are no indication of sexual orientation, beliefs, or health status.

Editor: Dwayne Jenkins
NBP Logo: RahRekus
Photos: google.com, Jenkins Digipic, nbjc.org

Brothers United Network, Inc.
Post Office Box # 68335
Nashville, TN 37206
E-mail: NashBlackPride@aol.com
Web-site: www.brothersunited.com

Participants do not have to be considered "out" to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc.
Providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation toTennessee's African American LGBT Community since 1996.

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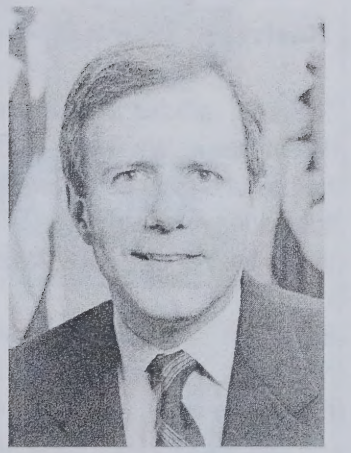
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Bill Purcell Mayor



October 27, 2006

Dear Friends:

It's my pleasure to welcome you to Nashville's fourth annual Black Pride Celebration, hosted by Brothers United Network Inc., being held on October 27-29, 2006 with the theme, "Changing Hearts & Minds".

As a member of the Nashville CARES Advisory Board, I have been impressed by the work of Brothers United Network in its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. In addition to promoting the vital work of Nashville CARES, however, this year's Celebration also highlights activities of the Human Rights Campaign, and Gay-Straight Alliances from both the Fisk and Tennessee State University campuses.

Please know you have my best wishes for a successful celebration.

Sincerely,

Bill Purcell
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
Metro City Hall
225 Polk Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Phone: 615.862.6000
Fax: 615.862.6040
mayor@nashville.gov

Dr. Marisa Richmond, PHD is the President of the Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee; Congressional Lobbying Coordinator, National Transgender Advocacy Coalition; Board Member, Tennessee Equality Project; former Board member, IFGE; Former Board Chair, AEGIS, and former Planning Team Member of Nashville Black Pride. She was listed as one of the 2006 Who's Who in Black LGBT America and works to organize and sustain a TG Support Group & Transgender Political Activism at the state and national Level.

Herndon Davis, MBA is the Director of Communications and Media of the National Black Justice Coalition. NBJC is the nation's only black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization. He is also an author, journalist, social commentator, lecturer, and television/radio host of a self-titled newsmagazine, "The Herndon Davis Diversity Reports". As an LGBT commentator and journalist, Mr. Davis continues to shine the light on vibrantly diverse Black LGBT communities.

Too Deep (aka Denise Sawyers) was born in Nashville, and has been rapping and producing music since 1999. She has participated and performed in many founctions throughout high school and the community. She has sold/passed out over 1,000 demos of her music, and is working on her upcoming mixtape. "I love music, it is a major part of who I am", says the young openly lesbian artist. "The truth is the truth, and that's what I spit!"

Nashville in Harmony is a city chorus for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their supporters. NIH is open to all who support the advancement of rights for GLBT people - women and men, straight and GLBT - of all races. Nashville in Harmony brings Nashvillians together, both within the GLBT community and throughout the city. NIH is proud to bring a unique style and voice to the Nashville music community. NIH perform all styles of music, from classical to pop, and rehearse weekly, on Sunday afternoons, at 4 p.m.

www.ifbprides.org
October, 2006

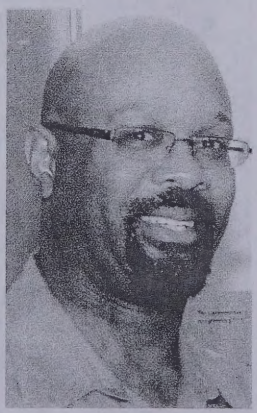
Greetings Nashville Black Pride Attendees:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend best wishes on behalf of the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP) to Nashville Black Pride as they host their 4th Black Pride celebration, "Changing Hearts & Minds" from October 27 to October 29, 2006. The IFBP represents twenty one gay Black Prides events in Boston; New York City; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Indianapolis; Washington, DC; Charlotte; Atlanta; Jacksonville; Memphis; New Orleans; St. Louis; Chicago; Detroit; Columbia, SC; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Los Angeles; Toronto; Dallas; San Diego; Central Florida (Tampa Bay); and South Africa.

The IFBP is a collation of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, health education and awareness, individual and collective work, responsibility and self determination.

Nashville Black Pride is very representative of a number of Black Pride celebrations that take place in the South as they share a date with an event taking place at a Historically Black College and University. Tennessee State's Homecoming is on the same weekend as Nashville Black Pride which is very fitting as Tennessee State is well represented on the Nashville Black Pride planning committee.

Nashville is a great place visit and the local folks are very friendly. The IFBP is proud to support Nashville Black Pride's efforts to produce a weekend that will reflect the mission and values of both the IFBP and the Nashville Black Pride organization. Have fun and please play safe!



Peace,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.
Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,
IFBP President/CEO

Brothers United Network, Inc. / Nashville Black Pride
Post Office Box # 68335, Nashville TN 37206
NashBlackPride@aol.com / brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm

The Nashville Black Pride Planning Team would like to officially welcome you to our 4th annual celebration! We have been working on this event since last November, and hope that you have the opportunity to participate in as many events as you can this weekend. The last time we shared our weekend with TSU's Homecoming, back in 2003, we had to turn people away. This year, we are ready for record breaking crowds, and can't wait to greet each and everyone of you. It is our hope that this celebration continues to grow, and that more and more people travel to the NashVegas to experience our southern LGBT hospitality. Be safe, be respectable, have fun, and have a happy, educational, empowering, and affirming Black Pride!

NBP Planning Board

Stallion is a Nashville native, original member of NBP Team, member of Sisters United, owner of Stallion Security, and a performer for Mac Productions.

Crystal is a sexy Capricorn from Kentucky, that received her B.S. in Agricultural Sciences, working as a TSU graduate student, and on the NBP Team for 2 years.

Phil has a Masters in Counseling, and is a human rights advocate. He is a behavioral therapist, a published author, writer for the Church Street Freedom Press, and a original NBP Member.

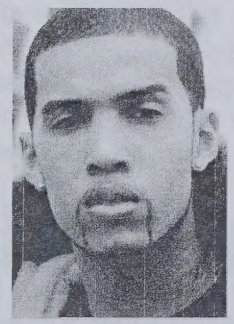
Dwayne is a native New Yorker who relocated to Nashville in 1994. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc, and is the founder and director of the BU Network and Nashville Black Pride.

Jessica is a 24 year-old graduate student at TSU majoring in English. When time permits, she likes to read, write, travel, shop, and spend time with friends.

Mac is a Native of Chicago, and is also an original member of NBP Team. This graduate of Fisk is the owner of Mac Productions, a company that focuses on entertainment for women.

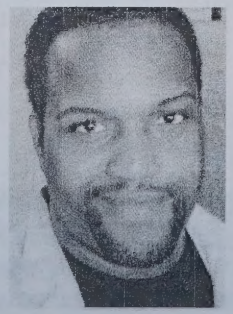
2006 NBP Planning Team & Volunteers: Avery, Cedric, Nubian, Malcolm, David, Torrance, Marquis, Robert, James, Ken, Keith, Antyon, Walter, and a host of others that wanted to remain nameless. We thank you all for your help, support & love!

Angela Harvey is a captivating, charismatic and dynamic multi-talented, multifaceted, Personal Growth Advisor. Angela is native of Cleveland, Ohio and resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her love for people and desire to be an advocate, a teacher, a change agent, a motivator and more importantly an inspiration to spark change and growth has presented itself in many ways. For years she has been able to practice the principles she now teaches through many employment ventures.She founded LET'S T. A. L. K. (Together Acquiring Lasting Knowledge) with the hopes of exchanging information in a variety of forums.



Phylle aka Larry B. Carter II was born in Philadelphia PA, which is why he goes by Phylle (pronounced Philly), but reared in Norfolk VA. Little did he know he would be living and growing up in what would be a "Hotbed" for urban music in Virginia and the United States. He has a style of his own which can be described as "diversified", some songs are laid back while other are raw with rough beats and lyrics to back him up.By blending the new with the old Phylle has created a sound for all ages to enjoy.He is "The One".

DaLyrical aka Donyale Singleton was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. DaLyrical's career began at the tender age of nine, writing several of her most popular hits. Her first project was the formalization of the rap group, II Legit. Her latest endeavors include sharing the stage with the Peace Out festival families throughout the nation as well as numerous performances across the Atlanta Metro area.

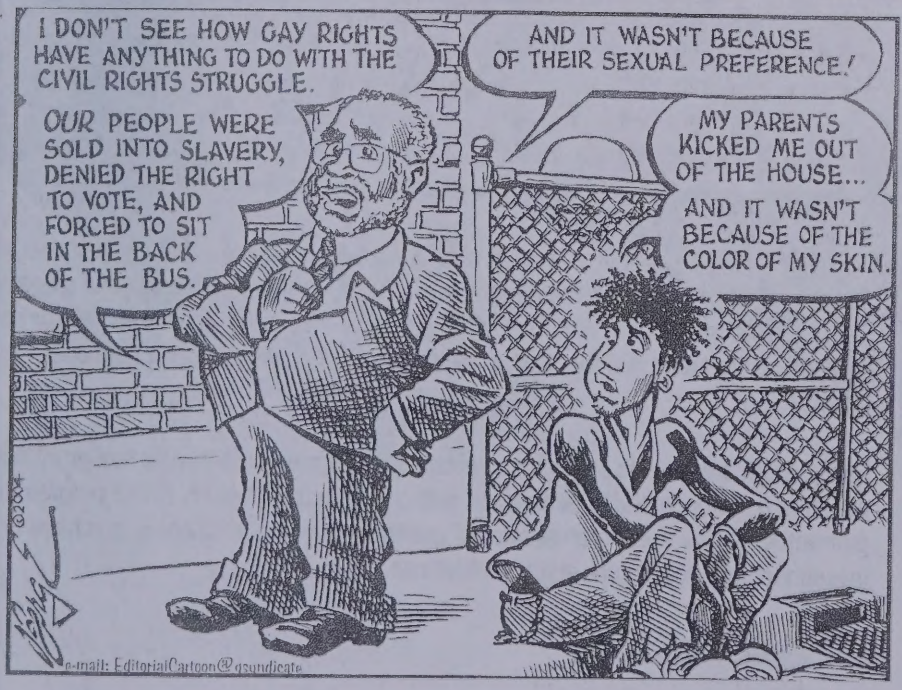


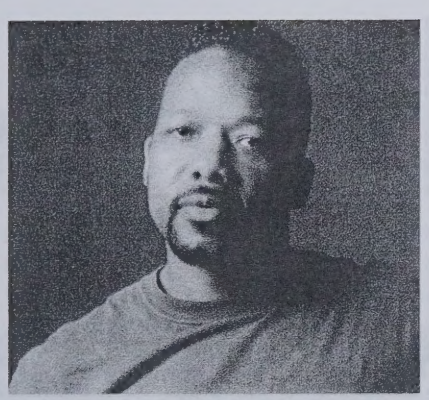
James McKissic creates abstract paintings in acrylic that bring to mind his rural, agricultural, African American ancestry and celebrate personal exploration. He has been making art for over seventeen years and studied at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Cleveland State Community College. James holds a MPA in Nonprofit and Public Management from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School at New York University and a BS in Secondary Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga CT.

Nashville Black Pride Annual Couples Recognition: *We salute these and all others we missed.*
Antyon & Kasim 1 yr, Chris & David 1 yr, Debreca & Sharonda 2 yrs, Alana & Elyse 2 yrs, Bobby & Gentry 3 yrs, Marquis & James 4 yrs, Mac & Stallion 7 yrs, Phil & Robert 6 yrs, Keith & Ken 9 yrs, Nathan & Dwayne 10 yrs, T & M 14 yrs, Damien & Jazzmyn 17 yrs, John & Jerome 19 years, David & Eric 21 years, and RH & CS 24 years.

Tennessean's please remember to cast your Vote NO on 1 ballet early, or on November 7 to support all of our relationships! Don't allow discrimination into our states constitution.

Vote-NO on 1
Marriage Equality Matters


I DON'T SEE HOW GAY RIGHTS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE.
OUR PEOPLE WERE SOLD INTO SLAVERY, DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE, AND FORCED TO SIT IN THE BACK OF THE BUS.
AND IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL PREFERENCE!
MY PARENTS KICKED ME OUT OF THE HOUSE...
AND IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF MY SKIN.
©2008
e-mail: EditorialCartoon@gsyndicate



Malcolm Griffin, Affliate Broker
Alamo Realty, Inc., 1959 Ft. Campbell Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37042, Office: (931) 552-2980,
Cell: (931) 249-4697, Fax: (931) 552-7884
Website: www.c21alamo.com
E-mail1 1: MGriffin@realtracs.com
E-mail 2: malcolmalik@hotmail.com

Why buy a house??? Perhaps, a better question is why pay someone else's mortgage? There are a number of reasons individuals have for deferring a home purchase.

Plans to relocate... What's your tentative date for relocation?
Paying off bills... What's your payoff amount and date of final payment?
Credit scores... What's your middle score and when was it pulled?
Student loans... Are they in deferment or default?

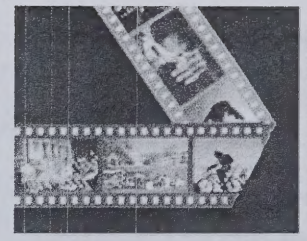
Now, ask yourself what reasons you have. Are those answers explanations or excuses? From my perspective, the ideal is to be debt free. However, it is essential to devise a plan to achieve that ideal. Yet, in the mean time, it's more important to manage your present debt. When it comes to purchasing a home your debt to income ratio is a variable to consider. However, it is equally important to have your accounts current even if it means you are paying $5.00 per month. Your account will show "current/paid as agreed" if these are terms you and your creditor have set.

A mortgagee realizes that you have commitments outside of a home purchase and takes your other responsibilities into consideration when establishing your preparedness for a mortgage loan. So, it's a myth to believe that you must be debt free or have an immaculate credit history. Some home loans are granted a short time after bankruptcy.

Lastly, there are various programs available to first-time home buyers that grant down payment assistance and/or assistance with closing cost. There is also a program that guarantees a low, fixed interest rate for qualifying buyers. Your home purchase is an investment into your future and your finances.

Best wishes, *Malcolm*

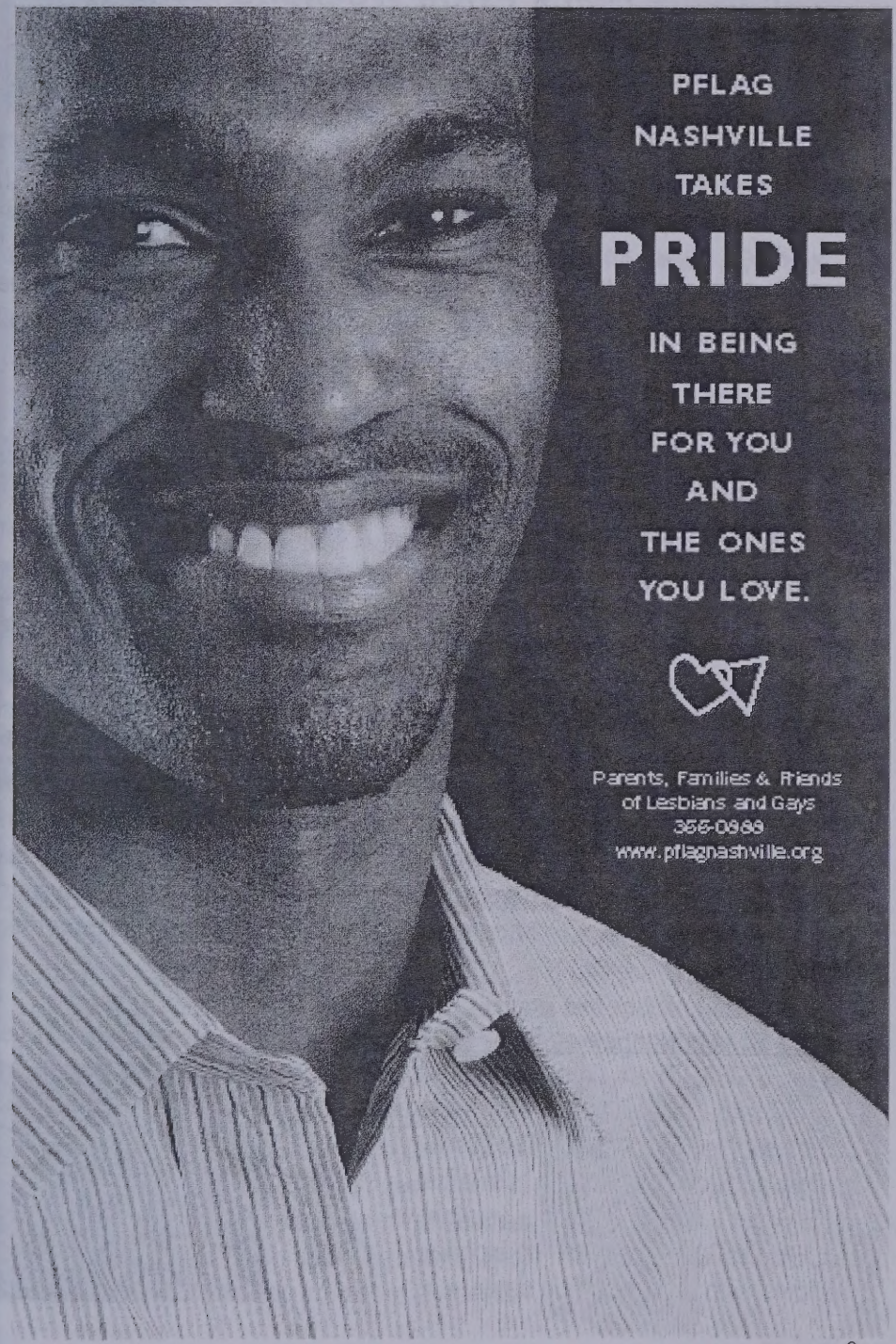
FEATURE FILM SUMMARIES



Keith & Greg: By Ken Jackson, USA, 2006, 65 min, video, drama. Though Keith is a football-throwing kind of guy, and sensitive Greg never met a gym he didn't avoid, the two find that opposites don't just attract: they ignite! Things quickly cool down after Keith's jealous ex-buddy begins to shake things up, including his commitment to Greg. Can the two Brothas' overcome the obstacles that keep them apart? Can they find a place where sex and security aren't mutually exclusive? Director Ken Jackson turns on the charm and keeps the passion alive in this bold and spicy love story.

Strange Fruit: A thriller by Kyle Schickner, 2004, 118 min / color. Strange Fruit follows William Boyals, a young successful, black gay New York City attorney, who is drawn back to the small, rural Louisiana town he long ago escaped from to investigate the lynching of a black gay childhood friend.The film shows poignantly how black gays are doubly oppressed at the hands of both racism and homophobia. This film not only shows homophobic black straights and racist-homophobic white straights, but also black gay men that do nothing to help their brothers fight these two prejudices.

Kinky Boots: How Far Would You Go To Save The Family Business? Charles Price may have grown up with his father in the family shoe business, but he never thought that he would take his father's place. After the untimely death of his father at his failed attempts to save the business, Charles has a chance encounter with the flamboyant drag queen cabaret singer, Lola. Lola is convinced to be their foot ware designer and the transition begins.


PFLAG
NASHVILLE
TAKES
PRIDE
IN BEING
THERE
FOR YOU
AND
THE ONES
YOU LOVE.
Parents, Families & Friends
of Lesbians and Gays
356-0969
www.pflagnashville.org

Nashville Black Pride Weekend Schedule

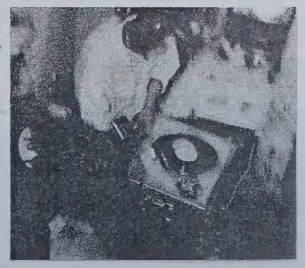
FRIDAY: October 27th

3 PM - 5 PM; GSA Play Shop: FREE at TSU Floyd Payne Student Center, room # 319. Before you hit the streets to celebrate either Black Pride or homecoming, drop by the special workshop entitled, "That's Not Love, That's Stupid!", facilitated by Angela Harvey from Let's T.A.L.K. Includes an appearance by Myles "Ray" Cunningham from the BET hit reality show COLLEGE HILL. Sponsored by the Gay Straight Alliance at Tennessee State University, Nashville Black Pride, and the Young BU Program at Nashville CARES.

6 PM - 8 PM; Opening Reception: FREE at the Quality Inn & Suites, 2401 Brick Church Pike, 37206.

9 PM - 2 AM; "Rhapsody in BLU": BLU Bar & Night Club, 1709 Church Street, 37203. The cost is $10 before midnight and $15 afterwards. Featuring music by DJ Robbie Rob from Philadelphia, and other special performances. *BLU Light Special: Any participant that attends the party at Blu wearing college related gear, fraternity, sorority, or any Greek letter organization paraphernalia on their shirts or pants get a $5 discount. Sorry, no buttons, hats, or other removable garments or pins will be accepted. Why are we offering this? Because taking a united stance as LGBT students, alumni, or members within community organizations is definitely what our pride celebration is all about. Let your freedom ring!*

9 PM - 12 AM; "Not Feeling Blue? Puckerup at KISS After Hours Club; 501 Lea Street, 37203. That's right, this year we are offering two official gatherings for the grown and sexy! Enjoy 3 hours of good music by DJ Mickey Calvin, and good friends. The cost is just $10, or get a refund of $5 after you take an HIV OraSure swab test [no blood or needles] with results back in days!



FILM SHORTS / DOCUMENTARIES SUMMARIES

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Simon & I: A story about the Black LGBT movement in South African
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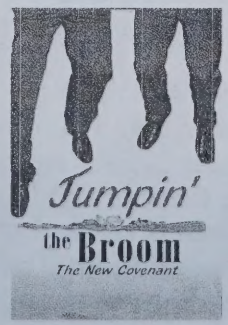

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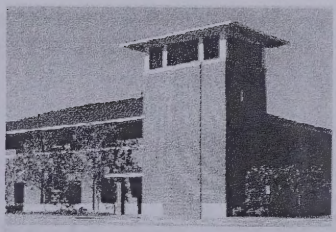
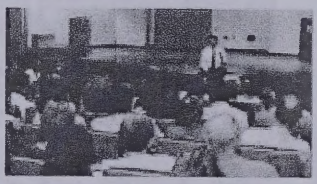
SATURDAY: October 28th



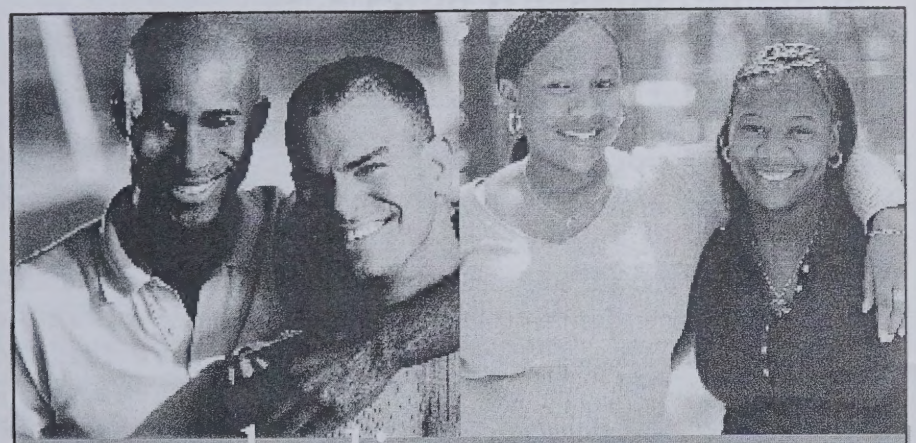
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM; "Come OUT, Come OUT Where Ever You Are!": FREE at Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. HRC is proud to sponsor Angela Harvey of Let's T.A.L.K. (Together Acquire Lasting Knowledge). Her interactive workshop is sure to empower those who are out, nearly out or still in the closet. Come and be empowered, encouraged, enlightened, exposed, educated, enhanced, and entertained. You will not want to miss this workshop. Free food & refreshments!

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM; National Black Justice Coalition Town Hall Meeting: FREE at Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Join NBJC Communications Director, Herndon Davis, and a distinguished panel of community Stake Holders as they tackle issues such as internalized homophobia, marriage equality, coming out, and the role of African American LGBT Community in the Black Church.



3:30 PM - 5:00 PM; Black Book & Spoken Word Xplosion: FREE at OUTLOUD Department Store, 1703 Church Street, 37203. Authors include; Doug Cooper-Spencer; THIS PLACE OF MEN, Laurinda D. Brown; WALK LIKE A MAN, UNERCOVER, and FIRE & BRIMSTONE, Clarence Nero; THREE SIDES TO EVERY STORY, Phil Michal Thomas; PANELS, Marquette Carney; NOT WHAT I WANTED, BUT WHAT I NEEDED & SWALLOW THE MOON, Diva Divine; LOVE & LUST: TALES OF THE HEART & EROTICA, and Melissa Gordon; REASON & BROWN GIRL BLUES. Also featuring local poets and spoken word performances, Chattanooga artist; James H. Mckissic, and playwright; James H. Chapmyn.

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM; "The Most Fun You Will Have at Church": FREE at Church Street Café, 1705 Church Street (directly next door to Outloud). Come laugh your ass off at Lesbian Comedian Dana Austin from Cleveland Ohio. Also featuring live music from special guests.



We believe in the power of freedom.

The FREEDOM to express your sexuality
The POWER to do it safely

Confidential services for women and men including:

- Pelvic Exams
- Confidential HIV Testing and Counseling
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections
- General Health Care
- Cancer Screenings
- Educational Programs

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF MIDDLE AND EAST TENNESSEE
www.ppmet.org
321-7216

Happy Black Pride Nashville!

From the beautiful and professional members of the Gay Straight Alliance Chapter at Tennessee State University

The GSA Chapter at TSU was founded in October 2003 and is a non-discriminating, diverse group building healthy respectable relationships between all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender, identity, or race.

For more information check us out on *Facebook*, e-mail us at TSUGSA@hotmail.com, or call 615 259-4866 x 269.

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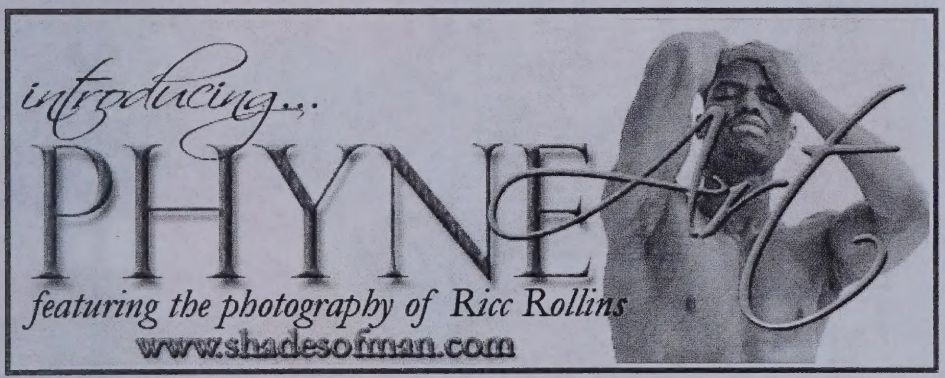
Wishing you another great celebration & best wishes for successful weekend!

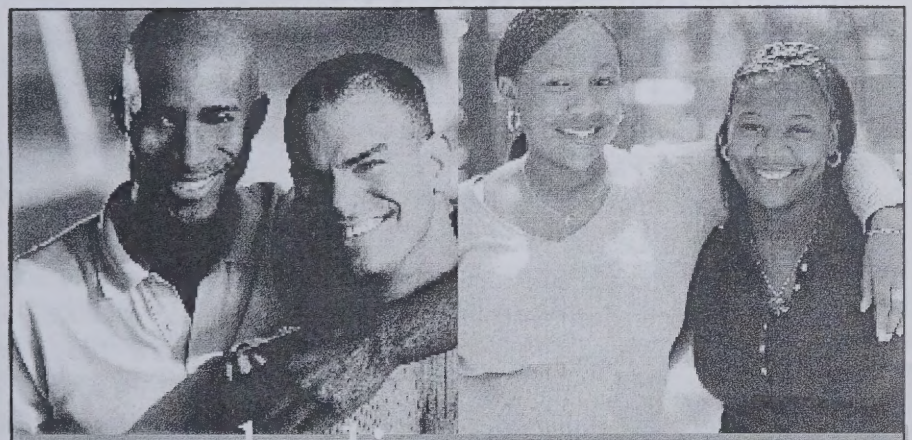
nashville pride



We're also trying to change hearts & minds!

Celebrating our first official LGBT group on campus & our first Black Pride together.

Gay Straight Alliance
FISK UNIVERSITY



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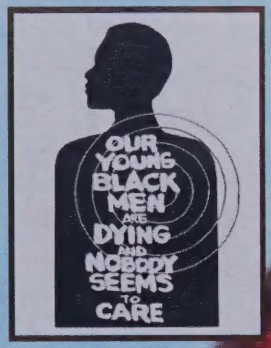
Black Book & Spoken Word Xplosion

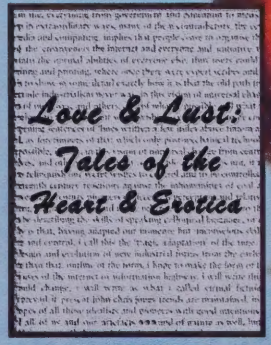
Saturday, October 28

3:30- 5 PM

James H. Chapmyn

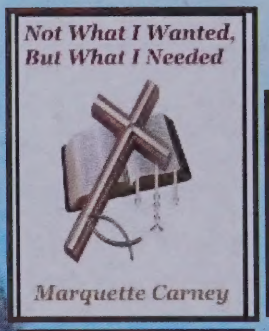


Diva Divine

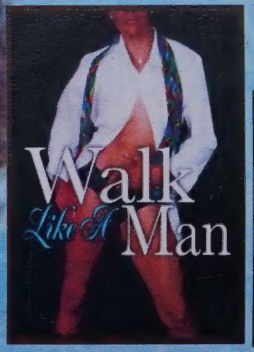


Phil Michal Thomas

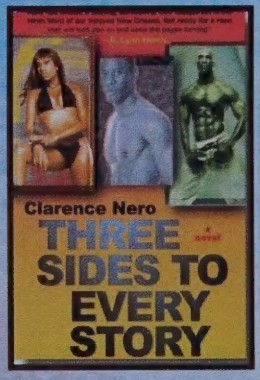
Melissa Gordon



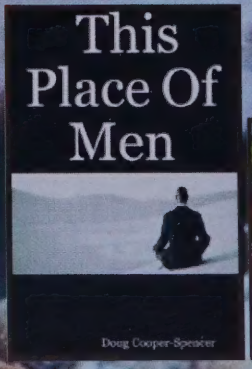
Marquette Carney



Laurinda D. Brown



Clarence Nero



Doug-Cooper Spencer

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all people are fully empowered to participate
safely, openly and honestly in family,
faith and community, regardless of race,
gender-identity or sexual orientation.

Join NBJC in our
efforts to ensure
that our world
becomes the world
of your vision.

National Black Justice Coalition
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SATURDAY: October 28th continued

9 PM - 2 AM; "Blood of Kings & Queens- A Night of Royalty": The Official Benefit Party at the Gibson Showcase, 161 Opry Mills Drive in Opry Mills Mall, $15 before Midnight $20 afterwards / 18 & older w/ proper ID ONLY. Dress to impress & wear whatever makes you feel like Royalty.

Get your groove on, and look fabulous! Featuring special appearance by 2006-7 Miss Diamond Diva; JADE, 2006-7 Mr. Esquire; D-Luv, and live vocal performances Kashan, DaLyrical, Phylle, and Mz. Jonz. Vendors, Door Prizes, Silent Auction & much more! Students w/Proper ID get a $5 discount.

SUNDAY: October 29th

An Afternoon at the Historic Belcourt Theatre; 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville 37217 (off 21st Avenue going towards Green Hills Mall, one block from the Wedgwood / Blakemore intersection).$8 donation for an All Day Pass. 1 PM - 9 PM. Students w/proper ID get a $3 discount. Also featuring surprise trailers, and a special live performance at 3:30 PM from the LGBT Choir, Nashville In Harmony.

FILMS AT A GLANCE:

SHORTS: "stepping to YOU", "The DL Chronicles: Wes Episode", "Jumping the Broom: The New Covenant", "The DL Chronicles: Robert Episode", "On the Low", and special segments from In the Life, the Gay & Lesbian Newsmagazine on Public TV.

DOCUMENTARIES: "How Do I Look?", "The Aggressives", "Coals Under Pressure", and "Homeless Stories: Tales from the Street".

FEATURE FILMS: "Keith & Greg", "Strange Fruit", and "Kinky Boots"

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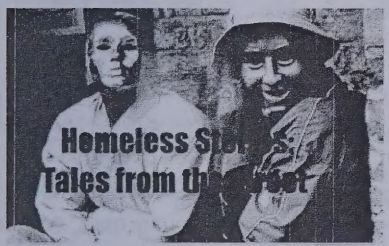

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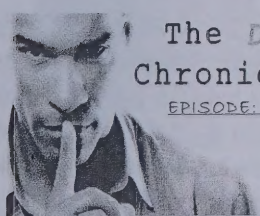

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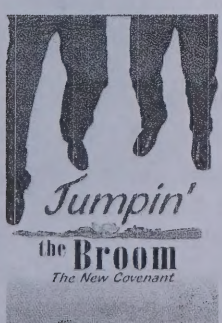

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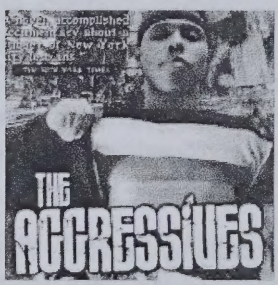
SHORTS / DOCUMENTARIES SUMMARIES CONTINUED

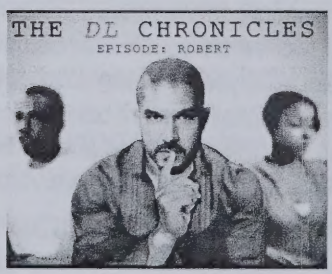
Coals Under Pressure highlights a trio of young Black Gay community organizers in St. Louis. Their perspectives and experiences within The Black Church, Hip-Hop culture, and the contemporary LGBT movement reflect a generation of Black gay men who are affirmed by the accomplishments of the past, critical of the present, and passionate about the future."

On The Low: By Luther Mace. This award winning film explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African American high school boys. It's the story of a young man, coming to terms with his sexuality and the conflict he experiences.

How Do I Look: As a follow up to the 1990 documentary, Paris is Burning on New York transgender and gay Ball culture, HDIL continues where it left off. Since 1997, director Wolfgang Busch and company has been documenting the "Balls", where the "Old School" and the "New School Legends" are competing in a safe and artistic environment at locations in Harlem, the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn.

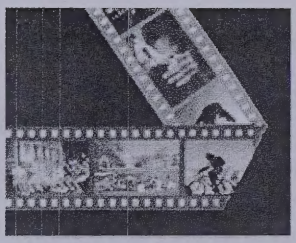


The Aggressives: Directed by Daniel Peddle. This striking and illuminating documentary explores and exposes the secret subculture of New York lesbians loften mistaken for men. These women range from pretty tomboys to the blatantly butch, boldly creating their own identities outside of society's established categories. The documentary is the culmination of five years spent uncovering six self-defined aggressives as they share their most intimate secrets.



The DL Chronicles; Episode: Robert is a romantic dramedy about a closeted talent agent who falls for a hot health food store manager, 20 years his junior. What Robert fails to share is that there is a very special lady in his life. When Robert's new lover grows suspicious about his many secrets, a game of cat and mouse ensues within this humorous love triangle, with a surprising twist of events.

FEATURE FILM SUMMARIES

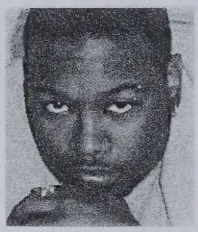


Keith & Greg: By Ken Jackson, USA, 2006, 65 min, video, drama. Though Keith is a football-throwing kind of guy, and sensitive Greg never met a gym he didn't avoid, the two find that opposites don't just attract: they ignite! Things quickly cool down after Keith's jealous ex-buddy begins to shake things up, including his commitment to Greg. Can the two Brothas' overcome the obstacles that keep them apart? Can they find a place where sex and security aren't mutually exclusive? Director Ken Jackson turns on the charm and keeps the passion alive in this bold and spicy love story.

Strange Fruit: A thriller by Kyle Schickner, 2004, 118 min / color. Strange Fruit follows William Boyals, a young successful, black gay New York City attorney, who is drawn back to the small, rural Louisiana town he long ago escaped from to investigate the lynching of a black gay childhood friend.The film shows poignantly how black gays are doubly oppressed at the hands of both racism and homophobia. This film not only shows homophobic black straights and racist-homophobic white straights, but also black gay men that do nothing to help their brothers fight these two prejudices.

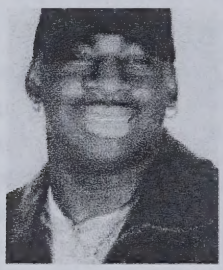
Kinky Boots: How Far Would You Go To Save The Family Business? Charles Price may have grown up with his father in the family shoe business, but he never thought that he would take his father's place. After the untimely death of his father at his failed attempts to save the business, Charles has a chance encounter with the flamboyant drag queen cabaret singer, Lola. Lola is convinced to be their foot ware designer and the transition begins.

Special Guest & Entertainment



DJ Robbie Rob: Da' Spin Doctor returns! Robert K. Burns, currently serves as the Director of The Collective - a multi-agency HIV prevention partnership targeting Gay Men of Color. As a DJ, Robert has entertained thousands of people over the past 11 years. He has spun for us since the year 2000, spinning for 13 consecutive SIMBE Socials and all 4 of our Nashville Black Pride celebrations.

DJ - Producer - Remixer Ken Terry has had a passion for music, and a relentless desire to share it with other since he began his journey with music in the late 80s doing house parties for family and friends. Twenty years later, he spins for a multitude of fans nationally and internationally. Kens career is chockfull of creativity and accomplishments, and as far ashe is concerned, music is the answer, indeed!

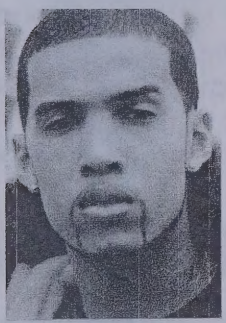


DJ Mickey Calvin was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. Mickey remembers a time, not so long ago when it was all about the music. He got his start playing music way back in high school, as a collector.and feels that music can take you from being sad to being happy. Besides concentrating on opening a club in Nashville, he wants to start producing and re-mixing records. You can expect big things from Mickey Calvin!

Dana Austin is a Cleveland Comic who is gaining national attention. She has showcased for the Queen's Of Comedy Tour, and featured on the BET Comic View Tour. Dana was first introduce to the African-American LGBT community by BlackOut Unlimited,in Cleveland, Ohio, performing during their Black Pride's Evening of The Arts. From there on, she has performed at SistahFest in L.A., Denver Pride, and The Oven's Womyn's Variety Show in Cleveland. Dana also served in the U.S. Navy.

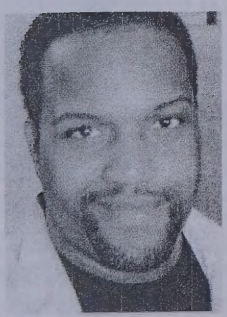
Myles "Ray" Cunningham was one of eight cast members on the third season of America's First African American reality TV series, COLLEGE HILL which airs on BET. He was the first Gay Personality featured on the BET network in its 25 year history. Myles currently resides in Los Angeles, CA and promotes HIV Awareness and education with the Rap It Up Campaign, appears as an on-air radio personality for Radio One, and has a weekly feature called "The Scoop with Ray in LA" on Wednesdays on Power 92 WCDX in Richmond VA.

Angela Harvey is a captivating, charismatic and dynamic multi-talented, multifaceted, Personal Growth Advisor. Angela is native of Cleveland, Ohio and resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her love for people and desire to be an advocate, a teacher, a change agent, a motivator and more importantly an inspiration to spark change and growth has presented itself in many ways. For years she has been able to practice the principles she now teaches through many employment ventures.She founded LET'S T. A. L. K. (Together Acquiring Lasting Knowledge) with the hopes of exchanging information in a variety of forums.

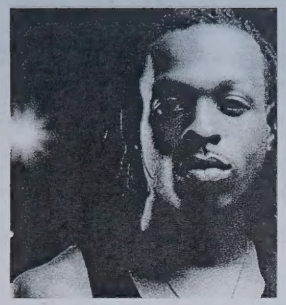


Phylle aka Larry B. Carter II was born in Philadelphia PA, which is why he goes by Phylle (pronounced Philly), but reared in Norfolk VA. Little did he know he would be living and growing up in what would be a "Hotbed" for urban music in Virginia and the United States. He has a style of his own which can be described as "diversified", some songs are laid back while other are raw with rough beats and lyrics to back him up.By blending the new with the old Phylle has created a sound for all ages to enjoy.He is "The One".

DaLyrical aka Donyale Singleton was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. DaLyrical's career began at the tender age of nine, writing several of her most popular hits. Her first project was the formalization of the rap group, II Legit. Her latest endeavors include sharing the stage with the Peace Out festival families throughout the nation as well as numerous performances across the Atlanta Metro area.



James McKissic creates abstract paintings in acrylic that bring to mind his rural, agricultural, African American ancestry and celebrate personal exploration. He has been making art for over seventeen years and studied at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and Cleveland State Community College. James holds a MPA in Nonprofit and Public Management from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School at New York University and a BS in Secondary Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga CT.



Kashan is a new artist on the scene. I have garnered success in entertainment but never approached music too much because I had not the inspirtation to write my own music. Fortunately, it is a new day and my requests were answered. My songs and my flow comes from a place that could only be sent from above and hope you get an opportunity to nod your head. Looking forward to seeing you at a show!!!

Mz Jonz aka Shayvonna is not just a rapper, but also a lyricist. A true to the heart Capricorn, she insists on giving listeners more than they're used to hearing these days. Shayvonna started her career by entering talent shows doing covers of her favorite hip-hop songs. After her first CD release in 2004, she formed her H.O.M.O. Entertainment; "Here On My Own". She's a solo artist in her own world, on her own level, on her own.

Tehran Dixon-Escada is a FISK Graduate that has recently participated, and walked Balls for the past few years. He is part of House of Escada family, and won the title of Schoolboy Realness of the year for Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. AlthoughTehran is not featured in "How Do I Look", he will be available to discuss the ballroom scene after the screening of film, to help put a face to the fabulousness .

D-LUV represents Nashville, TN and MAC Productions as the newly crowned Mr. Esquire 2006-7. D-Luv is also a two time winner of Mr. nashville PRIDE, and has traveled and performed for several years with the production company. She is also a member of the Stud Group called The Original Payboi's.

JADE is the first Queen to represent MAC Productions. She recently won the Ms Tennessee Diamond Diva Pageant title which was held in August 2006. She has performed in at the Femme-Girl Fiesta, Natioinal Coming Out Day Event, and the Mr. Esquire Pageant. Jade is a new comer to the production family.

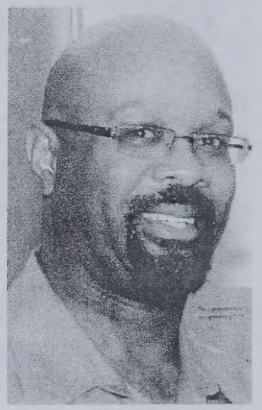
Greetings Nashville Black Pride Attendees:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend best wishes on behalf of the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBP) to Nashville Black Pride as they host their 4th Black Pride celebration, "Changing Hearts & Minds" from October 27 to October 29, 2006. The IFBP represents twenty one gay Black Prides events in Boston; New York City; Philadelphia; Baltimore; Indianapolis; Washington, DC; Charlotte; Atlanta; Jacksonville; Memphis; New Orleans; St. Louis; Chicago; Detroit; Columbia, SC; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Los Angeles; Toronto; Dallas; San Diego; Central Florida (Tampa Bay); and South Africa.

The IFBP is a collation of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, health education and awareness, individual and collective work, responsibility and self determination.

Nashville Black Pride is very representative of a number of Black Pride celebrations that take place in the South as they share a date with an event taking place at a Historically Black College and University. Tennessee State's Homecoming is on the same weekend as Nashville Black Pride which is very fitting as Tennessee State is well represented on the Nashville Black Pride planning committee.

Nashville is a great place visit and the local folks are very friendly. The IFBP is proud to support Nashville Black Pride's efforts to produce a weekend that will reflect the mission and values of both the IFBP and the Nashville Black Pride organization. Have fun and please play safe!



Peace,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.
Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,
IFBP President/CEO

Dr. Marisa Richmond, PHD is the President of the Tennessee Transgender Political Action Committee; Congressional Lobbying Coordinator, National Transgender Advocacy Coalition; Board Member, Tennessee Equality Project; former Board member, IFGE; Former Board Chair, AEGIS, and former Planning Team Member of Nashville Black Pride. She was listed as one of the 2006 Who's Who in Black LGBT America and works to organize and sustain a TG Support Group & Transgender Political Activism at the state and national Level.

Herndon Davis, MBA is the Director of Communications and Media of the National Black Justice Coalition. NBJC is the nation's only black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization. He is also an author, journalist, social commentator, lecturer, and television/radio host of a self-titled newsmagazine, "The Herndon Davis Diversity Reports". As an LGBT commentator and journalist, Mr. Davis continues to shine the light on vibrantly diverse Black LGBT communities.

Too Deep (aka Denise Sawyers) was born in Nashville, and has been rapping and producing music since 1999. She has participated and performed in many founctions throughout high school and the community. She has sold/passed out over 1,000 demos of her music, and is working on her upcoming mixtape. "I love music, it is a major part of who I am", says the young openly lesbian artist. "The truth is the truth, and that's what I spit!"

Nashville in Harmony is a city chorus for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their supporters. NIH is open to all who support the advancement of rights for GLBT people - women and men, straight and GLBT - of all races. Nashville in Harmony brings Nashvillians together, both within the GLBT community and throughout the city. NIH is proud to bring a unique style and voice to the Nashville music community. NIH perform all styles of music, from classical to pop, and rehearse weekly, on Sunday afternoons, at 4 p.m.

The Gamma Chapter of
Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority
Want to wish everyone a

Happy Pride 06

Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority is the National Greek Letter Organization
That Caters to the Lesbian and Bisexual Community.
Our Goal is to Promote Activities that Promote
Unty, Diversity and Awareness

The Gamma Chapter is the Local Nashville Chapter of AXY

**To Learn More About AXY
and The Gamma Chapter
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www.alphachiupsilon.com
www.myspace.com/gammaaxy
gammaaxy@yahoo.com**

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Note Certified as a Civil Trial, Criminal Trial,
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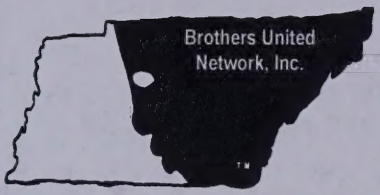

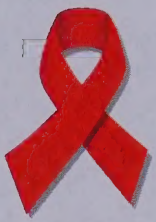

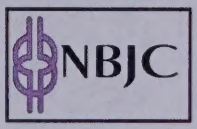

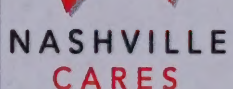

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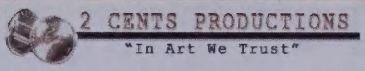

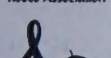

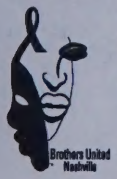

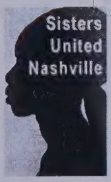

TN Transgender
Political Coalition

Nashville Black Pride is owned by Brothers Untied Network, Inc. Proud Member of the International Federation of Black Prides Organization.

Vendors: Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority, Zinger Tees, Beta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc., Beta Omicron Iota, Planned Parenthood of Middle & East Tennessee & Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Program, Flip Flop Fashion, PFLAG Nashville, Trips For Less, Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition, Smokey Mountain Rodeo Association,Studville Clothing, Black Entertainment Television, CLIK Magazine, Southern VOICE, David Magazine, and The Franklin Brooks Fund. . Also supported by Stallion Security, Nubian Sun, Church Street Cafe, The Franklin Brooks Fund, Studville Clothing, and the Vote No on 1 Campaign.

Because every family deserves equality.

The Human Rights Campaign salutes
Nashville Black Pride!

Working for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equal rights
(800) 777-4723 / www.hrc.org

HUMAN
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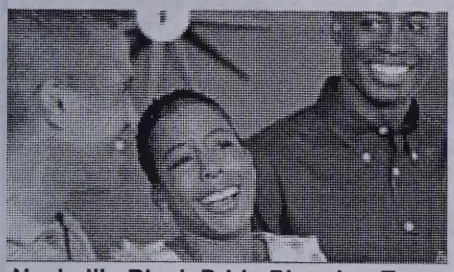
CAMPAIGN

The BASU SOURCE

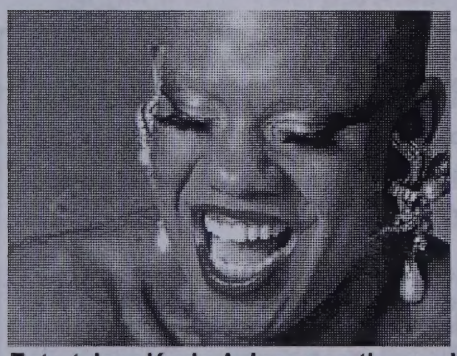
The Official Newsletter of Brothers & Sisters United Nashville & the BU Network Chapters
WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images [Volume 8, Issue 53]

SEPTEMBER 2006

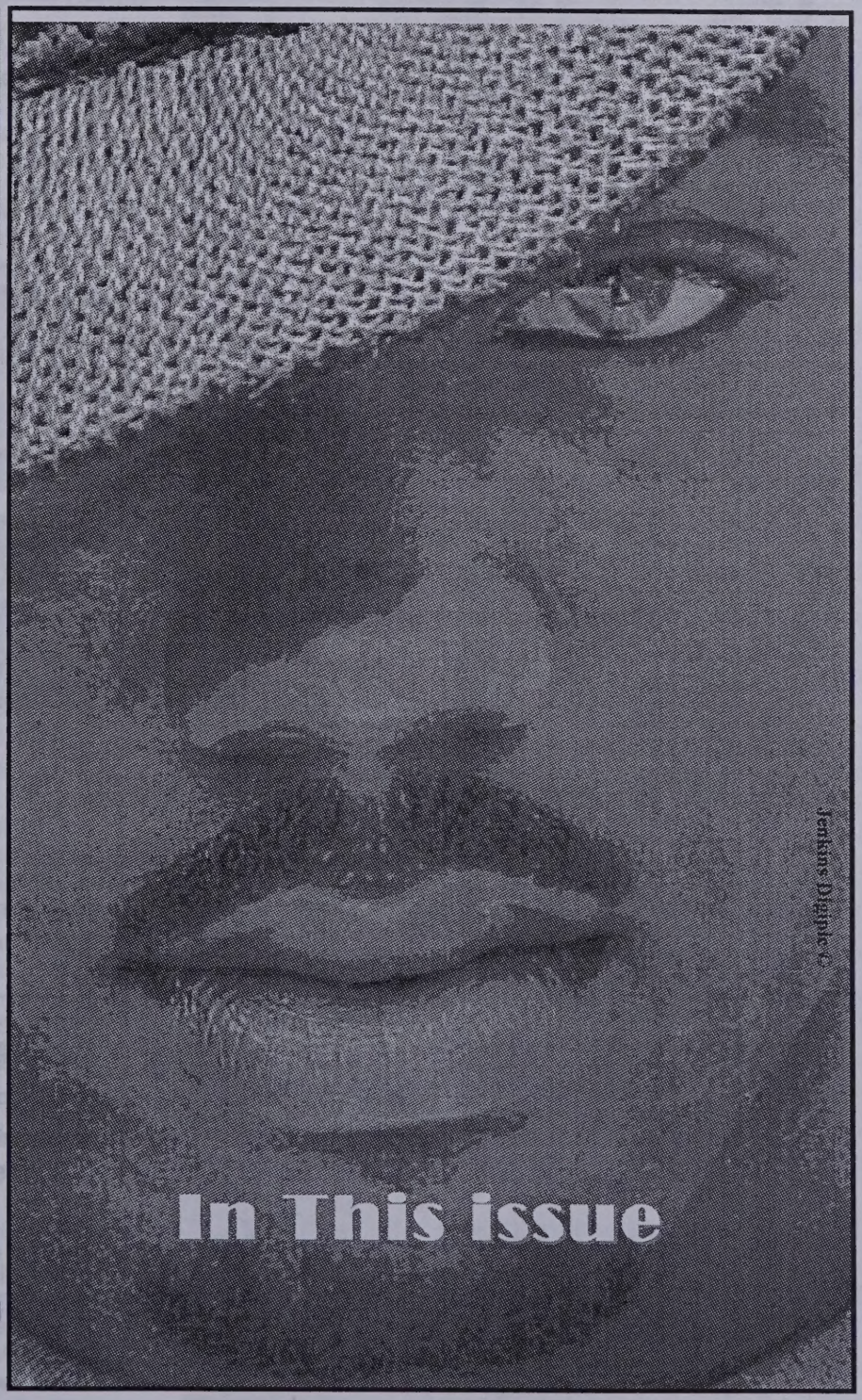


Nashville Black Pride Planning Team
"Changes Hearts & Minds"

"Christopher Street": A new Black LGBT DVD Series is on the horizon



Entertainer Kevin Aviance on the road to recovery after hate crime beating



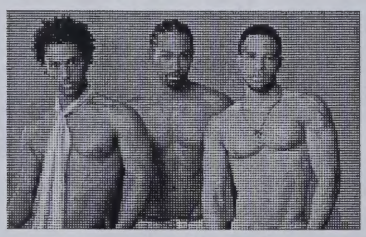
In This issue

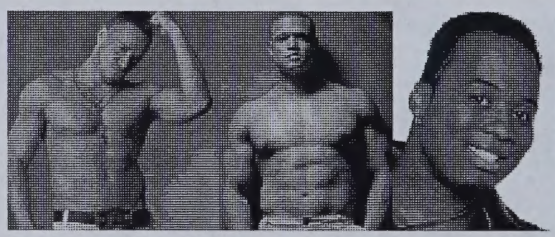
Knowing your HIV status is as easy as brushing your teeth...

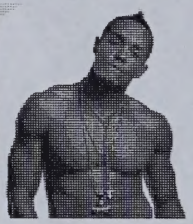
It's free, confidential, 99% accurate and takes a few minutes.
No Blood / No Needles with results back in days!

Call Nashville CARES to set up an appointment at 259-4866
and ask for either Dwayne (x 269) or Avery (x 221).

Nashville CARES is located off Brick Church Pike at 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Take I-24/I-65 Trinity Lane exit # 87 and go away from Dickerson Road under the expressway. At the light in front of the EXXON make a right towards the McDonald's on to Brick Church Pike. After you go up a small hill and pass the new Brick Church Middle School on your right, get in your center turning lane when you see the "END 15 Mile" School Sign and make the next left into the Brick Church Business Park. Follow the hill up to the building with the watch tower and make a left in front of the 501 sign in the grass, and then a quick right into the parking lot and that is Nashville CARES. We strongly suggest that you call to make an appointment rather than just doing a walk-in.





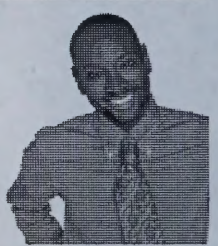


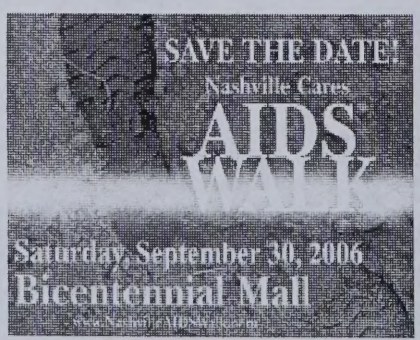
Purchase the first season of Noah's Arc on DVD in Nashville at OUTLOUD (615) 340-0034

NOAH'S ARC

The Second Season has begun!

Check out the hit cabel TV show on Logo





Saturday - September 30, 2006

Please join us at Bicentennial State Park Mall for the 15th Annual Nashville CARES AIDS WALK. Festivities start at 10am with registration, our new annual Pancake Breakfast and the Health and Wellness Fair. Entertainment starts at 11am with the Verbena Court Strut Band and Tim Ellinger. This event is fun for the whole family, even your family pets. The Walk begins at 12 noon. To register for the Walk please visit www.nashvilleaidswalk.com or for more information contact Jenean Davis at 259-4866 or via e-mail at jdavis@nashvillecares.org.

The BASU SOURCE

This newsletter is published to keep the African American Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgenderd community in Nashville connected to the greater Black LGBT world. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by Brothers United, Young Brothers United, Sisters United, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride or Nashville CARES. Names & photos of persons appearing in any of THE BASU SOURCE issues are no indication of sexual orientation or health status.

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1-800-845-4266 ext. # 269
E-mail: BrosUnited@aol.com
BU web-site: www.brothersunited.com
Agency web-site: www.nashvillecares.org

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Don't like paper? Subscribe to our monthly eSOURCE e-mails and stay connected for free!

ALL CORRESPONDENCES ARE STRICTLY PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status or be considered "out" to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc. Celebrating 10 Years of providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation.

The BU Network is autonomous from, yet complementary to the Nashville CARES BU/YBU programs in that all of the events & activities provide in-depth, longer term life skills required for success outside of, but essential to , HIV prevention, outreach and education. D. Jenkins is the primary contact for all programs.

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BU Health & Wellness Corner

Gay Man tapped to lead CDC's HIV division

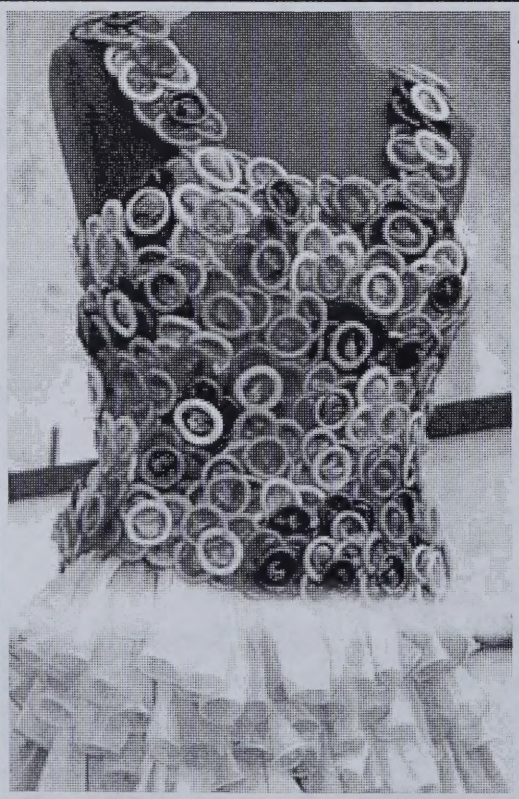
Fenton says top goal is addressing complacent gay, bisexual men

By Dyana Bagby

As a gay black man, Dr. Kevin Fenton acknowledges his life experiences will influence how he manages his new post as director of the National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. His career as a public health official plays an important role to curb the rising rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in the United States and globally. In an interview with Southern Voice earlier this year, Fenton stressed, "my experiences will have influence, but I have many identities. It is my commitment to public health and my commitment to serve the American people and the global community that is most important".

Fenton helped author "Good practice guidelines for HIV health promotion with black gay and bisexual men" for the Gay Men Fighting AIDS organization in London. African-American gay and bisexual men are perhaps the population most at risk for HIV, he said. "There are a number of risk groups we are concerned about and African-American men who have sex with men is perhaps at the top of that list," he said. "It is crucial we understand why - racism, homophobia, poor access to health care - all these contribute. I'll be working with the CDC to look at ways to mobilize these communities."

Craig Washington, volunteer and training coordinator for Positive Impact, an HIV advocacy group in Atlanta, said "Fenton's appointment leaves him hopeful! Having an openly gay black man certainly offers promise for heightened visible and demonstrable commitment to enhancing prevention efforts and prioritizing at long last the lives of gay and bisexual black men".



Health Brief: *Condoms Block HPV Too*

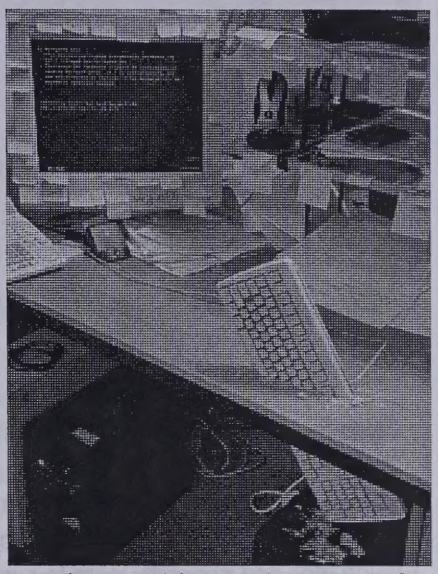
Condoms reduce male-to-female transmission of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) by approximately 70%, according to researchers at the University of Washington. The virus, to which people with HIV are especially vulnerable, afflicts an estimated 630 million people worldwide and is the leading cause of cervical and anal cancer. http://www.poz.com/articles/1_7192.shtml [June 2006]

Ladies remember , even if you had a good Pap Smear, you may still want to get checked for HPV (a virus that can cause cervical cancer). Since you can not always tell if you have it, taking the test is a something that you should consider. As with any important issues, you should start a dialouge with your family members, peers, and friends to discuss how to keep one another on top of topics that concern your community. Here's to our health!

To find out how to connect with the new Sisters United group, please e-mail sistersunitedinfo@yahoo.com

From Where I Sit

by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor & Publisher



After countless e-mails, calls, and inquiries about the status of our newsletter, I have finally sat my butt down, pushed and was able to pinch one out. As anyone that has ever been constipated knows, it is generally a painful, yet enjoyable experience. If anyone has been keeping tabs, and I know some of you have been, this is the first newsletter for 2006. Yeah, I know damn!? Instead of boring you with the details and our reasons why it has taken me so long to create one, I will just say that it couldn't be avoided, and hopefully it will not happen again. For those of you that subscribe, things will pick up exactly where they left off. If you have internet access and or an e-mail address, you can also sign up for our monthly electronic updates called "eSOURCE". This has been the primary way we have been able to stay in touch with people in the community since the 2005 Oct/Nov/Dec issue of the newsletter was out. We currently have over 400 individuals on our list serve, and none of the addresses are shared or shown within the send list. We have been able to give away free movie passes, as well as keep the community in touch with local, regional and national LGBT news and events. If you'd like to be included and receive these e-mails, please contact me directly.

Okay, now with that done, Hey Ya'll!

Hope this newly name and retitled version of The SOURCE, finds you all in good health and spirits. Since our readership has increased over the past 9 years from predominately male to about a 60/40 split with females, it was an easy decision to make, yet another transformation. Plus, with the development of our Sisters United group, we wanted the newsletter to reflect the entire LBGT community it reaches. The acronym "BASU" simply stands for Brothers and Sisters United. Our trademarked logo with two faces has been used for different visuals over the years, but has now found a permanent home.

If some of you are craving a full color and or national Gay & Lesbian publicatioin to read, you can always check out some of the following Black Owned and Operated LBGT/Same Gender Loving Magazines that I have subscriptions to. Supporting our magazines is crucial to the economical growth of our community, causes and outreach efforts:

CLIK Magazine: www.clikque.com / $20 a year
Ballroom Rockstar Magazine: www.ballroomrockstar.com / $24.95 a year
NYANSAPO- the Magazine of the National Black Justice Coalition: www.nbjcoalition.org / $35 a year INLCUDES NBJC Membership & Subscription to magazine
Just Living Magazine: www.justlivingthemagazine.com / $17.95 a year
No Labelz: A new Atlanta based Lesbian Magazine, www.nolabelz.com / $24.95 a year

For those of you that prefer the internet, we will be compiling a list of non porn related Black LGBT links to place on our www.brothersunited.com website by the end of the year. Feel free to send us some of the sites that you get your information from. Knowledge is power, and we want to continue to be one of your primary resources whether if you live in the state of Tennessee or not. Please enjoy the issue, and thanks again for patience and understanding.

Dwayne

A Note From New Young Brothers United Coordinator

Hey! Some of you guys have stopped by the office to introduce yourselves or sent emails welcoming me to my new position. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Avery, the new Young Brother United peer coordinator. I am originally from Arlington Texas, and currently a senior at Vanderbilt University. To date, I am busy working with Dwayne on Black Pride activities, but also building the Young Brothers United group back up. If you guys would like to join or have any suggestions, please feel free to drop me an email at the following address; aewing@nashvillecares.org. Best wishes, Avery R. S. Ewing

Tales from the Crypt- My Personal Horror stories of dating Men in Nashville

Okay, I know I am not the only one in this city who is looking for a decent person to date, so I thought that maybe I would share my horror stories so that we can laugh, cry, and hopefully learn to avoid these idiots that we meet.

***Please note that the names have been changed to protect my ass from future interactions with them. ***

Part One. "Young and Dumb"

I met Mike at an educational program that my fraternity put on. Mike was sitting next to my gay parents. I was thinking in my head "Damn, who is the cute black man in the audience" (I was about 50 yards away...so that's why I thought he was cute.) After the program, I went to chat with them. On our first date Mike made the first mistake by asking the horrible question ... "so are you a top or a bottom". No matter what I answered, his selfish ass would have tried to stick his little peter in my ass anyway. Over time, I got mixed messages from him. Everything was on his terms, where we went, what we ate, everything; but, then there were the times in which he was really nice, but he never contributed anything but his opinion. Mike was really charming. Sometimes it was cute, at other times it was acurse. I remember one day I wanted to hang out with him and when I called he said he was ready to go hang out, apparently so was his family. With his charm turned on high, he suggested that we put our plans on hold for the moment to drop off some of his family members down the street. When I pulled up to his home I ended up taking his family members on various errand runs around Nashville. (That's why the title is Young and Dumb). Down the street was a 30 minute drive. I think my worst experience out of all the Mike drama was the Valentines Day massacre of 2005. I believe in reciprocity. It's not a hard concept. (Give and take... just like good sex!) Issuea arose because this Valentines day I went all out. I made plans to attend a concert, a nice meal at a local restaurant, and playing piano for him. I know many of you are thinking "what did he do"? He did nothing, not even a card. Bastard! Over time, again being young and dumb, I found myself buying everything. Apparently, my generosity gave him the impression to ask me for $200 dollars for his rent! By that time, I figured out the game. As a matter of fact, I learned how to go tit for tat. I saw Mike recently at a club that we will call Green. The interaction between us is almost at extinction, but I get pleasure in knowing that he knows that his actions were wrong, and that I have progressed past him. With that, I close with sharing my thoughts on how to avoid the Mike's of the world. 1. Make sure that you date a person with a job or actively looking for one. 2. Ask for a one, three, and five year plan. 3. When casually dating, each party should be responsible for their own expenses. 4. Play "Free Yourself" by Fantasia when you notice that they get upset when things don't go their way. (Subliminal messages always work, unless they are REALLY stupid). 5. Make sure you convey that he is not the only man in the world.

Thanks for reading, and allowing me to share. Check back in next issue for another installment.

September - November Black Pride Schedule

AUGUST 31 - SEPT 4: **ATLANTA, GA BLACK GAY PRIDE**
404-872-6410 Email: info@inthelifeatl.com /www.inthelifeatl.com
OCTOBER 5 - 9: **DALLAS, TX BLACK PRIDE** 214-498-5815
Email: dallasblack2k@yahoo.com / www.dallasblackpride.com
OCTOBER 6 - 8: **BALTIMORE, MD BLACK GAY PRIDE**
443-691-9669 / Email: bmoreblackpride@yahoo.com / www.bmoreblackpride.org
OCTOBER 6 - 9: **OAKLAND, CA BLACK PRIDE** 510-268-0646 / Email: tbhcafe@pacbell.net
OCTOBER 12 - 15: **JACKSON, MS BLACK PRIDE** msblkpride@yahoo.com www.mississippiblackpride.com
OCTOBER 27 - 29: **NASHVILLE, TN BLACK PRIDE** ** See Ad On Back Page **
NOVEMBER 2 - 5: **SHREVEPORT, LA BLACK PRIDE** Phone: 817-401-7678

All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please contact the individual city for more details on host hotels and activity listings. This end of the year list is provided by Brothers United Network, Inc. & The International Federation of Black Prides Organization, Inc. *www.ifbprides.org*

We need uninfected adult volunteers from all backgrounds to participate in a research study. There is no risk of HIV infection from the vaccines, and volunteers must be available locally for 12-18 months and will be compensated for their time. To learn more, please call (615) 322-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hivvaccineresearch.com

Providing Funding for Programs that
Prevent Disconnection • Provide Education • Promote Understanding
of Gay and Lesbian Issues in Nashville

THE BROOKS FUND

THE BROOKS FUND has awarded grants to the following nonprofits over the last ten years.
Center for LGBT Life in Nashville • Council of Community Services • Equality Tennessee • GLSEN • Mockingbird Public Theatre • Nashville CARES • Nashville Children's Theatre • Nashville Independent Film Festival • National Conference for Community & Justice • Oasis Center • PFLAG • Planned Parenthood Association of Middle Tennessee • Rainbow Community Center • Unitarian Universalist First Church of Nashville • YWCA

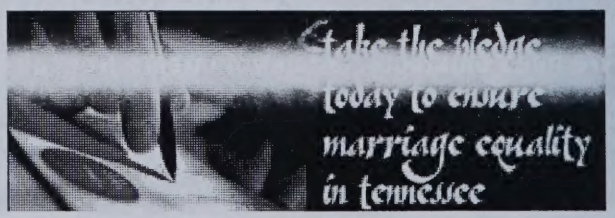
To donate, apply for a grant, or to learn more go to www.thebrooksfund.org.

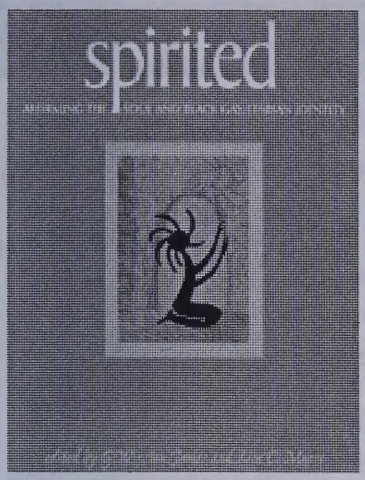
the brooks fund :: a fund of the community foundation of middle tennessee
3833 Cleghorn Avenue, #400 • Nashville, TN 37215-2519 • 615.321.4939 phone • 615.327.2746 fax
1.888.540.5200 toll free • www.thebrooksfund.org • www.cfmt.org

Vote NO on 1
Marriage Equality Matters

On November 7th, 2006, Tennesseans are scheduled to step into their polling places and vote on an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution that would permanently ban marriage for same-sex couples in our state. The amendment would permanently deny equal marriage rights to Tennessee's same-sex couples. Similar amendments in other states have been used to justify denial of domestic partner benefits at state institutions and agencies to heterosexual as well as same-sex couples. This amendment may be interpreted to have other unintended consequences for the citizens of Tennessee.

The people of Tennessee have a historic opportunity to become the first state in the nation to reject a constitutional ban on legal protections for same-sex couples. Check out the website at http://votenoon1tn.com or pick up VoteNo buttons, bumper stickersand t-shirts available at OutLoud!





The Reading Room

Reviewed by Alana Ramirez

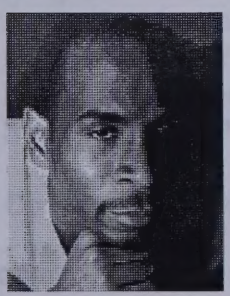
G. Winston James, and Lisa C. Moore.
Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity.
Washington, D.C.: RedBone Press, 2006. 391 pages. $16.95

G. Winston James and Lisa C. Moore collaborated their talents to edit the historic anthology "*Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity*". G. Winston James is a Jamaican-born poet and short fiction writer whose work appears in a multitude of anthologies and publications. He is the author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning anthologies, "*Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS*" and "*The Road Before Us*". Lisa C. Moore is the founder and editor of RedBone Press. RedBone Press has won several awards for its publication of Black Gay/Lesbian literature. Moore is currently board president of Fire & Ink, an influential supporter and advocate for LGBT writers of African descent.

The Black Church has historically been the source of faith and strength for the African American community. It fed hope during slavery and was a meeting place during the Civil Rights Movement. Years later, it is still a haven to many seeking spirituality and fellowship, but what of the LGBT community? Don't ask, don't tell seems to be the rule that is followed. Although Christianity is the spiritual path that many travel, others have found fulfillment by embracing Buddhism, Voodoo, and Shamanism, to name a few.

Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity, is a compilation of personal accounts in the fight for spiritual freedom. Stories of men and women who have crusaded to find comfort amongst other worshipers and within themselves as well, are told from many perspectives. Some stories reveal the feeling of being "lost" or undeserving of God's love; tales are told of emptiness and knowing that something was missing. As the painful, yet rewarding journeys are shared throughout Spirited, any reader is sure to learn that they are not alone in the spiritual battle.

"Spirited" is an uplifting collection of short stories that most can relate to in some way. Stigmas are still placed on the LGBT community regarding spiritual, or lack thereof, paths, How many times have you heard the famous, "You're going to hell, you know?" "Spirited" addresses confrontations of similar dialogue or actions. Whether you are looking to spend and hour or only fifteen minutes, "Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity", is the kind of read to start your day positively and provide the soul with the affirmations required for the heart to thrive.



G. Winston James holds an MFA in fiction, and is the author of the Lambda Literary Award-nominated poetry collection Lyric: Poems Along a Broken Road. His poetry also appears in numerous anthologies and publications.

Lisa C. Moore is currently in production for sassy b. gonn: Searching for Black Lesbian Elders, a video documentary stemming from her master's research in anthropology. Moore was also lead organizer of the Fire & Ink writers festival for LGBT people of African descent in September 2002.

It's your essence that I crave.
The spirit of you still moves through my mind.
I can't escape the memory: just put it behind.
How could you take all you gave?

How could "forever" only be a few days?
My soul has an empty space,
That once had you in it's place.
I've tired to fill this in a number of ways.

Still, it's your essence that I crave.
I am destined to come back to this conclusion.
Is love a reality or just another illusion?
If love's illusion, why am I still it's slave?

I can't seem to free myself from this bond.
Despite distance, absence & sometimes apathy,
I remain conflicted and at love's mercy.
I am consumed with finding a way to abscond.

Yet, it's your essence that I crave.
All things new, seem bland and unfulfilling.
The idea of finding someone is unappealing.
There are no new roads to love to pave.

I've searched my psyche for some glimmer of change
Of all things I can repair, I don't seem to be one.
I am broken by an ending that has not begun.
Yet, the idea of a reunion seems absurd and strange.

So, it's merely your essence that I crave.
There's only room in my life for me.
In work or play, I relish complete autonomy.
My heart is too harden to once more engrave.

MAG 02-06-06

The Walnut
By Nick A. Davis

The walnut - getting off to something that may kill us,

The walnut - saying in your mind that he really loves you but you know that he doesn't,

The walnut - justifying that nose candy and getting high in the bathroom,

The walnut - hiding behind those expensive clothes and hoping people won't see the real you,

The walnut - cutting your arm just a little to see if you can stand the pain,

The walnut - sleeping with that psycho just for the thrill of it,

The walnut - loading that pistol just to see what heaven is like,

The Walnut…

If you would like to submit a piece to share with our readers, please submit your work via e-mail to

brosunited@aol.com

Dirty Laundry, A MUST SEE Family Movie for All!

By Dwayne Jenkins, Editor in Chief

A few months before my partner and I decided to actually travel out of town on our vacation, I found out that the new film by Maurice Jamal entitled DIRTY LAUNDRY was going to be screened in Washington DC during their Black Pride event over Memorial Day. Our initial plan was to go and spend time with my mom and family in the Bronx, but then it all changed because of my interest to see this film. I've been keeping tabs on Maurice since his film THE SKI TRIP was the main feature during our 2004 Nashville Black Pride Film Fest. I know some of you may be thinking that I'm a little off for scheduling a vacation around a film, but I really wanted to see it, and was excited to finally make it to DC Black Pride. Yeah, I've been to DC for conferences, and even for fun, but never for the official celebration. Plus, I felt somewhat connected to the film because I had the pleasure to meet and get to know Maurice over the pass year or so and also donated a few coins to the film project when he started gearing up for production last year.

Once we arrived in DC, got settled in and unpacked, we went to the host hotel, and I purchased my ticket for the film. It felt as though I got the winning lotto ticket Chile. Once the actual day of the screening took place, I arrived at the hotel about 10 minutes later than I wanted to and noticed that there was a line out the door for the film. I gladly walked my ass past the line to the entrance and handed them my ticket. When I entered it was wall to wall people. Brothers and Sisters of every shade, and size had packed in the room like sardines. I knew I should've come earlier, but at least I didn't have to wait outside. Unfortunately for the long line of folks outside, the show sold out about 5 minutes after I found a seat. Maurice and Executive Producer, Nathan Williams were introduced by my good friend and college Brandon Braud from HRC, the event sponsor. After they gave us a brief history, Maurice explained that they were originally going to show a few clips of the film, but decided on featuring the entire film, uncut and as is. Everyone in the audience gasp! All you heard were cheers and slang sayings such as, "now that is what I'm talkin' bout", and "work us chil-ren!" Once the room lights were dimmed, it was on! Throughout the film there were laughs, sighs, applauses and more laughs. DIRTY LAUNDRY is one of the best "family oriented" films I've ever seen. And just so I'm understood, I don't mean just our Same Gender Loving/LGBT Family, I'm talking about families of all races, religions, and sexual orientations. The film stars Loretta Devine, Rockmond Dunbar, Jenifer Lewis, Terry J. Vaughn., Sommore, and a host of other talented people in a comedy about family drama. To see a sneak peak of the film, go to the official site; www.dirtylaundrythemovie.com, or Keith Boykin's website link; http://www.keithboykin.com/arch/2006/06/19/exclusive_dirty_1 .

Once the lights came up, the audience was at there feet, clapping and giving major love. To me, this film was not only well shot, written, with fantastic acting and direction, but also has the potential to really give some of these other blockbuster films a run for their money. If you love Loretta Divine and Jenifer Lewis, you may actually pee yourself. They are that good! Rockmond, Sommore and even the films writer and producer, Maurice play their individual roles as if it was their life stories. Actually, I think that is one of the main reason's DIRTY LAUNDRY will appeal to so many of its viewers is because it has a character or two that we all can relate in one way or another.

Continued on page # 13

Macy's & LIFEbeat Challenge Students to Think Creatively about HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention

Back-to-school program awards winning idea with an exclusive performance by Teddy Geiger

NEW YORK - August 9, 2006 - Beginning August 15, 2006, Macy's and LIFEbeat - the music industry's charitable organization dedicated to reaching America's youth with the message of HIV/AIDS prevention - are challenging high school and college students to a different kind of homework assignment: brainstorming creative ideas to raise awareness and dollars in support of HIV/AIDS prevention. The Macy's LIFEbeat Challenge will award the winning entrant with a private performance for the winner and 10 friends by Columbia recording artist Teddy Geiger.

"We are all too familiar with the necessity of bringing the issue of HIV/AIDS prevention back to light among a younger audience," said John Cannelli, Executive Director of LIFEbeat. "People under 25 are estimated to make up half of all new HIV infections occurring in the U.S., which translates into roughly 20,000 new infections each year in young people. Yet somehow today's kids seem to have gotten the message that this isn't something they need to be worried about." From August 15 to October 15, the Macy's LIFEbeat Challenge invites high school and college students/student organizations to submit online at www.thisit.com or www.lifebeat.org their most creative, most out-of-the-box fundraising ideas for LIFEbeat.

Following the entry period, a panel of distinguished judges will review the ideas and select a winner based on creativity and fundraising/awareness-raising potential. The winner will be announced on World AIDS Day on December 1. To kick off the program, American Rag will offer an exclusive LIFEbeat t-shirt available only in select Macy's stores and on macys.com in August and September (while supplies last). Ten dollars from the sale of each shirt will be donated to LIFEbeat. The shirts will retail for $19.

Macy's, the largest retail brand of Federated Department Stores, Inc., delivers fashion and affordable luxury to customers at more than 800 locations in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. Offering distinctive assortments including exclusive fashion and home brands, Macy's stores are operated by seven regionally based retail divisions - Macy's East, Macy's Florida, Macy's Midwest, Macy's North, Macy's Northwest, Macy's South, and Macy's West - and an online store at macys.com. Contact Ronnie Taffet, (212) 704-1802, ronnie.taffet@macys.com. For Macy's media materials, please visit our online pressroom at www.macys.com/pressroom.

He or She says, "Hey Baby, you wanna hook up?"

You say: No, I'm good!

+

Nah, I'm not in the mood...

+

I really shouldn't...

+

Okay, wait-stop...whatever!

Some will say there was consent, while others disagree. The Jury's verdict may be Rape!
Don't give anyone a reason to read between the lines.
Make the decision to avoid drama, and try to prevent violence.

Remember everyone you come across doesn't have your best interest at heart.
Both Men & Women in the LGBT community can and have been sexually assaulted.
Drugs & alcohol increase the risk of having unprotected consentual sex. Know your limits!

Dirty Laundry, A MUST SEE Family Movie for All! Reviewed by Dwayne Jenkins

continued from page # 11

I recently read that the film has won two major film awards. Now mind you, it hasn't been released in theatres yet, but the people that have know a winner when they see it. The film received the awards for Best U.S. Feature, and Best Actor, Loretta Devin, from the American Black Film Festival (ABFF). "I'm overwhelmed" said the films producer, Maurice Jamal. Since the screenings have begun, the film has sold out in every city that it has appeared including; New York, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, and Washington DC. During the question and answer session, after the screening, Maurice and Nathan mentioned that the film should be released in theaters in December around the holiday season. The Nashville Black Pride Planning Team and I are trying to work some magic to premier the film during our Black LGBT Film & Cultural Fest which takes place on Sunday, October 29th at the Belcourt Theater. Unfortunately for us, this may not be able to happen since it is so close to the national release date, but we will do our best. If we aren't able to get it, I strongly suggest that you try and attend the screening during Atlanta Black Pride over Labor Day weekend. That may be the only way you may get to see the film, even after it is released. Ya'll know how things get here in the South, sometimes. Yeah, Nashville is a big city, but we have been passed over plenty of times when certain films and or musicals make their way to the southern states. If we are able to work a root and bring DIRTY LAUNDRY to Nashville, we expect EVERYONE to help support the film and our Black Pride celebration by attending the show. Not only will you see a fantastic film, but you will also celebrate the efforts of the local planning team members to continue to work and provide events for our LGBT community.

Plot Outline: A modern-day prodigal son story with a twist. It follows Patrick, a magazine writer, who seems to have the "perfect life," until one day, there is a knock at the door. On the other side stands a secret that brings him face to face with the traditional southern family he hasn't seen in over 10 years.

Photo 1: Dwayne from BU/Nashville Black Pride with Brandon Braud & Donna Payne from HRC (Human Rights Campaign)

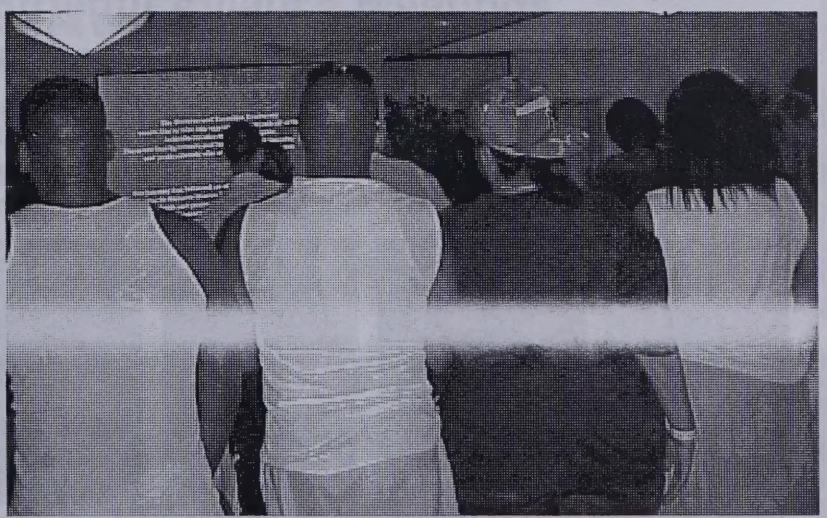


Photo 2: As the credits rolled after the film, I captured the backsides of the standing room only ovation that Dirty Laundry received.

Winter Retreat 10: *"A Family Reunion"*

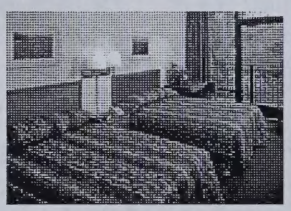
Thursday, November 30th - Sunday, December 3rd, 2006

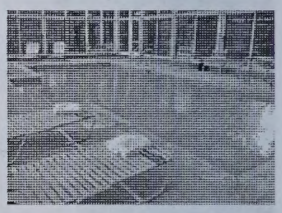
Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center, Burns TN

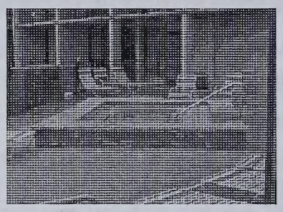
Brothers United Network, Inc., PO Box # 68335, Nashville, TN 37206
Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Office: 800 845-4266 x 269 / Cell: 615 974-2832
E-mail: brosunited@aol.com / www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

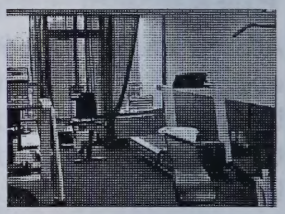
The atmosphere is very relaxed and gives participants a chance to explore issues of identity, spirituality, and sexuality. It is facilitated in a non-threatening and culturally sensitive forum. At times it can be entertaining, provocative and emotional. Although the majority of participants live in the State of Tennessee, others have traveled from Chicago, Texas, Virginia, Michigan, Washington D.C., Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Mississippi to join us. This year our official Lesbian group, Sisters United, will be joining us for the first time in history. This will definitely be one "Family Reunion" that you don't want to miss! Montgomery Bell is about 50 miles from Nashville, 161 miles from Chattanooga, 186 miles from the Memphis & West TN areas, and 218 from Knoxville.

Frequently Asked Questions:









What is provided? The accommodations are Double Bed hotel style lodging, with TV, window and bathroom. Six (6) buffet style meals, commemorative item, all work & playshops, activities, entertainment, in-door pool out-door hot tub & exercise facility.

How much does it cost? Early Bird Special: $185 for returning guests, $195 for others. $225 for all after November 1. If you can't make it for the entire event, we are also offering a special one day rate of $58 including lodging, lunch & dinner.

What types of payments are accepted? Cashiers Checks, Money Orders, Internet payments through PAYPAL (send to: bronetwktn@aol.com) and NEW this year, **All major Credit Cards**!. (please call for details).

Things to bring: A calm, friendly & peaceful spirit! Extra spending money to support any one of our showcase artists or authors that will be selling their merchandise. Swimming trunks & workout clothes, ear plugs if you are a light sleeper, any special dietary needs or medications, hiking/walking gear if you are into the outdoors, board games for those late night evening hours of play, and a camera or digital camera/recorder for photos & special moments.

Things to leave at home: All family, work or baby-daddy/momma related drama, all illegal drugs or paraphernalia, and any intended plans on turning the weekend into your personal sex fest. We're not saying folks can't, won't, and don't hook up; we're just making sure that isn't the main reason that anyone may want to attend. :-)

Way Out of Control by Craig Washington

The highly publicized Peter Jennings ABC TV special on AIDS in Black America was quite aptly entitled "Out of Control". Because that is what it was. A fool. With the exception of some cogent remarks by Phil Wilson and David Malebranche, most of the commentary about Black gay/same gender loving men was obviously edited to portray us as the harbingers of disease for Black innocents-women and children. The focus on Black gay men being conflated into yet another down low diatribe--out of control. Peter Jennings shaming gay brothas about infecting their wives--portrayed as if they were helpless victims destroyed by their no count trifling sexually depraved husbands--out of control. One of the few dignified moments came when brother Michael Banner called Jennings out on his self righteous indictment. Oh and did you catch the sequenced dl baiting of sanctimonious. Black women who blame the plague on men who have sex with other men? Notice how their sweeping statements went unchecked, and way out of control. I was shocked at the paternalistic nerve of white men who ask Jesse Jackson, whom they have apparently crowned as King of Black America, how this could have happened on "your watch." I guess they forgot to mention how President Ronald Reagan, the "great communicator" avoided mentioning AIDS for years while gays and people of color were ticking off like mayflies during his watch. White men like Jennings and his cohorts who have controlled the media for the span of the epidemic and are just now getting around to having a Primetime special about the subject, they exemplify the height of white supremacist arrogance--out of control and off the chain. Let us not forget Passa Megapimp TD Jake's excusing the silence, judgement, and misinformation promulgated by black pastors by claiming that AIDS was not in the Bible. Coon, thou art loosed--Jake's is a laughably tragic clown--a deadly minstrel in the conservatives' court. Throughout this self congratulatory show, there was little acknowledgement of the symbiotic connections between homophobia, misogyny, class oppression and AIDS. No critique of prevention dollars for gay men being held hostage to puritanical ideologies. No examination of young Black gay and bisexual mens lives, those who are much more profoundly affected than Black women or any other population in the U.S. No queries about flat funding for Ryan White dollars in the face of increasing needs and shrinking resources. This mess was hello out of control. And so are we. Black People. Have we reached a new low in our willingness, our readiness to be bought off to tell lies or bossed to say nothing?I need a community of people who are capable of doing whatever, whenever as Essex Hemphill challenged. At this point, I do not think I have the luxury of particular preferences about the sexual orientation, race or ethnicity of those who are willing to make real the vision for our salvation.
In Faith and Courage, Craig Washington http://www.craigwerks.com

GSA Chapter @*Tennessee State University*

The Gay-Straight Alliance Meetings will be held on Sunday afternoon. times & dates TBA

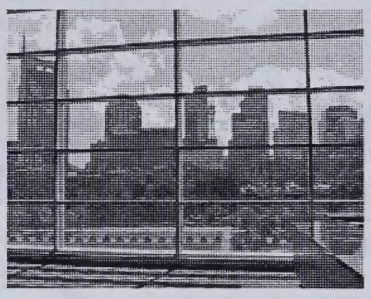
Everyone Welcome, Come One, Come All!

For questions contact:
tsugsa@hotmail.com

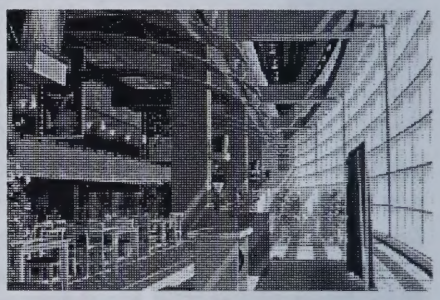
Supported in part by BU, YBU, Nashville Black Pride & the HRC HBCU Program

NASHVILLE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONS
NAPP
GLBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

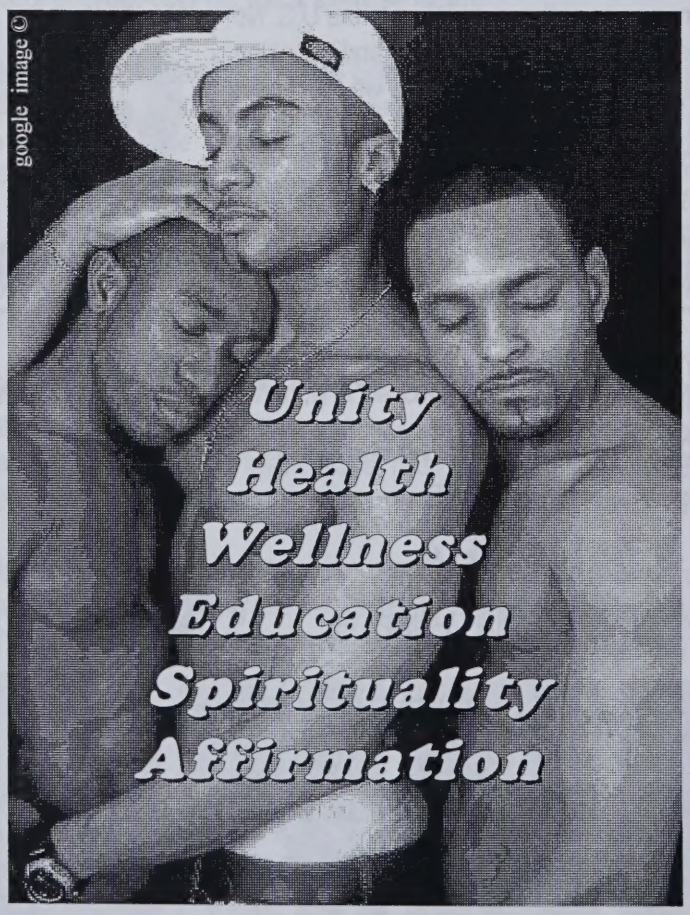
The 2nd Annual Gay Life and Business Expo will be held at LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans on Saturday, November 4.The Expo will be held in the Club West section of the stadium at LP Field. The area boasts more than 13,000 square feet of space, and includes a view of the Nashville downtown skyline. The Club West area is carpeted, has built-in bars and permanent buffet line. The Club offers wireless microphones, television, monitors and PA speakers throughout the room to facilitate audio and video playback, as well as the capacity to patch live closed circuit through 44 TV's. Two lounges will be available for Expo workshops.



Exhibitor space and sponsorships can now be secured. The exhibitor booth price is $150 for NAPP members and $200 for non-members. A 10 percent discount is offered if application is made by August 19. Applications can be secured by contacting wade at wade1412@comcast.net.



Additional information on the conference can be found at www.nashvilleglbtchamber.org.



With a current readership of over 750 households in Tennessee and across the country, you will not find a better deal anywhere! Let us be your local *source* of info into our ever changing Black LGBT/Same Gender Loving world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail for free. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order out to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.

The BASU SOURCE

Subscribe Today!

Nashville & Middle TN Residents *FREE*

NASHVILLE Calender of Events

September [Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15 thru 10/15]

9/1 - 4: **FTM 2006: A Gender Odyssey**, PMB# 796, 1122 E Pike St., Seattle, WA 98122, info@transconference.org ,www.transconference.org. This is a national conference for masculine-identified people who were assigned female gender at birth. It is a place for us to gather together, share our lives, learn from one another, and celebrate our communities.
9/13: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center
9/23: **Nashville Black Pride Planning Team Meeting** 3-5 PM at CARES
9/23: **Young Brothers United Volunteer Meeting** 5:30-7:30 PM at CARES
9/23: **Sisters United Volunteer Meeting** 6-8 PM at CARES
9/27: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center
9/30: **Nashville AIDS Walk**: A benefit for Nashville CARES: Location, Bicentennial Mall. To register or sign up to volunteer contact www.nashvilleaidswalk.com or call Dwayne at 259-4866 x 269.

October

10/4: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center
10/11: **National Coming Out Day**:
10/14: **Queer Talk Radio Interview** on 91.1
10/14: **10th Annual Mr. Esquire Pageant**: Gibson Showcase, sponsored by MAC Productions. Contact 615 498-1956 or e-mail them at macproductionspageant@yahoo.com
10/17: **Madelyn J. McCray Show** interview- Church Street Cafe' 1707 Church St. from 7 -9 PM. Next to OUTLOUD Department Store.
10/19: **International Drag King Extravaganza**, Austin TX
10/25: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center
10/27-29: **Nashville Black Pride # 4**: "Changing Hearts & Minds", Call 800 845-4266 x 269 or contact NashBlackPride@aol.com, www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm

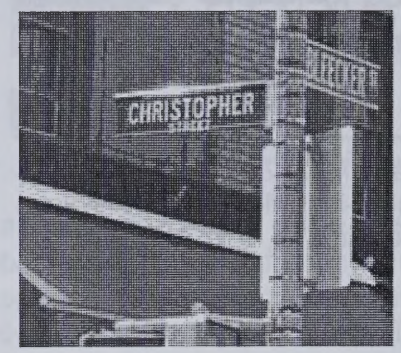
November

11/4: **Nashville GLBT Life & Business Expo**: The 2nd Annual Gay Life and Business Expo will be held at LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans on Saturday, November 4.The Expo will be held in the Club West section of the stadium at LP Field. Sponsored by the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce (formally NAPP) www.musiccityglbtchamber.com
11/12: **ARTRAGEOUS**: A benefit for Nashville CARES, location TBA
11/20: **National Transgender Day of Remembrance**
11/30 - 12/3: **Brothers United Nashville Winter Retreat # 10**: A Family Reunion, Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center. Call 800 845-4266 x 269 or contact BrosUnited@aol.com, www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

December

11/30 - 12/3: Brothers United Nashville Winter Retreat # 10: A Family Reunion, Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center. Call 800 845-4266 x 269 or contact BrosUnited@aol.com, www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

12/1: **World AIDS Day**



"Christopher Street": A New Black LGBT DVD Series

If Rent was the 80's answer to telling gay life in New York's Lower East Side, then Christopher Street might be the answer to telling a current depiction of gay life in the West Village. Dwight O'Neal, a Twenty-two year old recent film school graduate, created and produced this show to help demonstrate that members of the Black LGBT community who have love, support, and comfort from strong friendships, can make all the difference, and postive impressions within peoples lives.

The cute irony is the title isn't directly named after the famed NYC gay mecca. Christopher is the name of the title character, and Manhattan's famed homo boulevard. This new straight-to-DVD series that tells the interconnected stories of four gay, young adults living in the heart of one of New York's (original) gay districts. Whether it's being in the closet, dealing with relationships, abuse, identity, self-love, HIV/AIDS, and the harassment that lies with in a homophobic society, each of the characters bring something special to the table. Christopher Street never fails to examine the reality of what goes on with today's younger, gay generation. This independent DVD Series is scheduled tobe available on Amazon.com later this year and is set to be released as installments.

For more information about the series, please check out the website at www.christopherstreettv.com. You can also contact them via e-mail through info@christopherstreettv.com, christopherstreet-series@yahoo.com, or visit their myspace page at www.myspace.com/christopherstreet

Be sure to attend this year's Nashville Black Pride Film & Cultural Fest on Sunday, October 29th at the Historic Belcourt Theater to view a special screening of "Christopher Street". Yes Folks, our celebration has a lot to offer and then some!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Strebor Books/Atria, a division of Simon & Schuster, is accepting submissions for FLESH TO FLESH (tentative title), a gay erotic anthology that will be edited by Lee Hayes and published in fall 2007 or early 2008.

This anthology is an opportunity for up-and-coming writers to gain national exposure as the anthology will be available in all major bookstores. Selected authors will be paid a one time fee of $100 and receive 5 complimentary copies of the anthology. Stories must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

Stories must be erotic and if you have no idea what my idea of erotica is, I suggest that you read a copy of "Chocolate Flava", edited by Zane. We are not looking for stories with weak, sugar-coated sex. Nor are we looking for stories that are nothing but fluff. There must be a good storyline and characters readers can get into. Stories cannot be degrading to either sex. In fact, they should empower the reader to discover sexual liberation. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2006. All submissions must be sent to Strebor Books International, ATTN: LEE HAYES, PO Box 6505, Largo, MD 20792.

Lee Hayes is the best selling author of *PASSION MARKS & A DEEPER BLUE: PASSION MARKS II.*
www.passionmarks.com

Entertainer Kevin Aviance, On The Road To Recovery!

As some of you may know, singer/entertainer Kevin Aviance had been a victim of a hate crime beating in New York City a few months back. The 38 year old Entertainer & Drag Icon, whose songs have topped the Billboard dance chart, was attack by a group of four young male teenagers between the ages of 16 to 20 after he left an East Village gay bar. Though Aviance often performs in drag, he was dressed as a man when four strangers approached him, then beat him, dragged him and hurled objects like spray paint cans his way. All suspects have been arrested and charged with assault.

Having danced, and enjoyed Kevin's presence over the years, I thought I'd let you know how he was doing through his own words. The quotes below were taken from his website www.kevinavianceworld.com under his blog section. Please check him out and send him kind word as he makes his way back to the stage.

"I would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and support. It's been more than helpful, and I am truly grateful. Every day is a new day, and each day I am a little stronger. The love of so many friends and fans heals the wounds. It's amazing! I will be back soon - stronger than ever. For more information regarding my progress and soon, my benefit appearances, check back regularly at Kevin Aviance World. I will be posting a daily blog, communicating with the world."

"After three long starving weeks of hell, now I can finally eat - and I am talking about soft food. My business manager asked me " what's the first thing you're gonna want to eat", I said "a big fat juicy steak". But I can't, because my gums are still very tender and sore. I have to let my jaw heal properly. I will be seeing a physical therapist soon, to assist me in my recovery. In the meantime, I will be popping alot of medicine fiercely - to ease the pain. It will be another two weeks of healing, and I can't be bothered. The good thing from all of this is, my body looks gorgeous - damn it!"

"Wow, it's been a month since my jaw was wired shut, no voice, fierce diet, and excrutiating pain. Those bitches thought that they were too keep me down, but now they are gagging!!! I actually feel bigger, and my mouth stronger and brighter. My knee is still a little weak, so everyday I take my morning walks around the block to work the muscles that have fallen weak to a bashing. I am fighting children. I am fighting"

[1] Singer Kevin Aviance Released From Hospital. [2] Despite his jaw being wired shut, and a brace on his leg, the diva wore a whimsical hat down Fifth Avenue; jaw wired shut, pride and all.

Aviance's hit songs have included "*Give It Up*", "*Cunty*", "*Alive*" and "*Din Da Da*", which topped the Billboard dance chart.

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

October 27 - 29, 2006

"Changing Hearts & Minds"

Post Office Box # 68335
Nashville, TN 37206
800 845-4266 x 269 / 615 974-2832
nashblackpride@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm

Host Hotel: Quality Inn & Suites
2401 Brick Church Pike Nashville, TN 37207
(615) 226-4600 * You must mention "Black Pride" for any of the rates listed below before September 30. Double: $60, Queen: $70 & King: $75. Includes a complimentary deluxe hot breakfast & free internet access in the lobby.

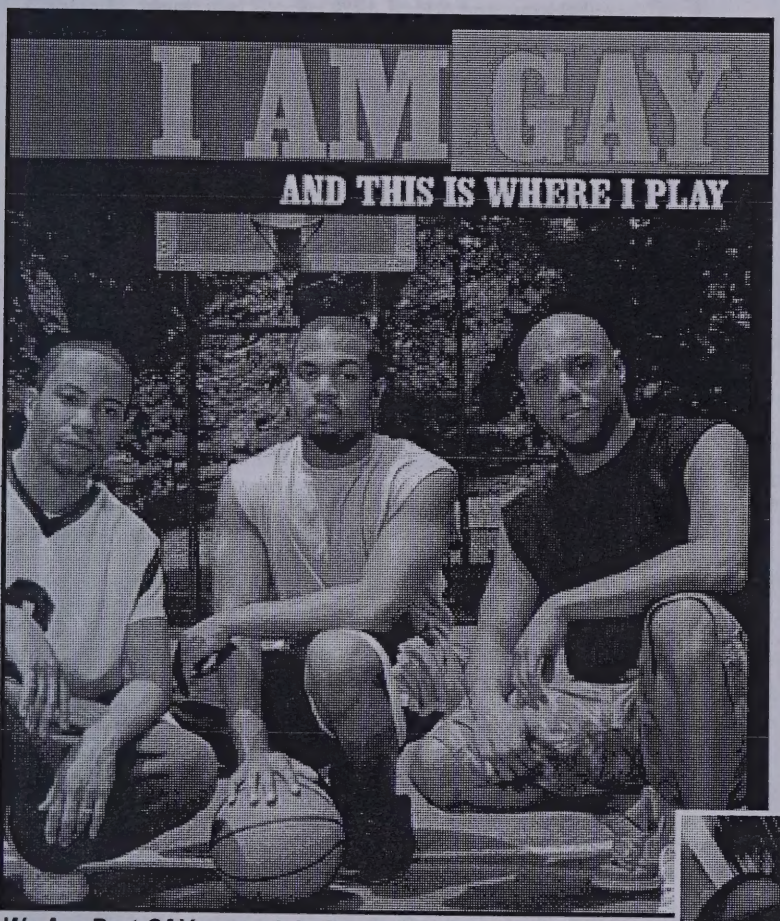
This year, Nashville celebrates it's 4th Black Pride Weekend! Activities will include a reception, book signings at OUTLOUD Department Store, spoken word event, live music & entertainment, a townhall meeting at Nashville CARES, a benefit party at the Gibson Showcase at Opry Mills Mall, workshops, couples recognition, free & confidential HIV needless testing, and annual Black LGBT Film & Cultural Fest at the historic Belcourt Theater.

Nashville Black Pride is owned by Brothers United Network, Inc. Proud Member, International Federation of Black Prides Organization
Schedule of events & list of authors, films and entertainers TBA on or before September 15th. Below are the current Sponsors & Supporters as of 8/06

The BASU SOURCE

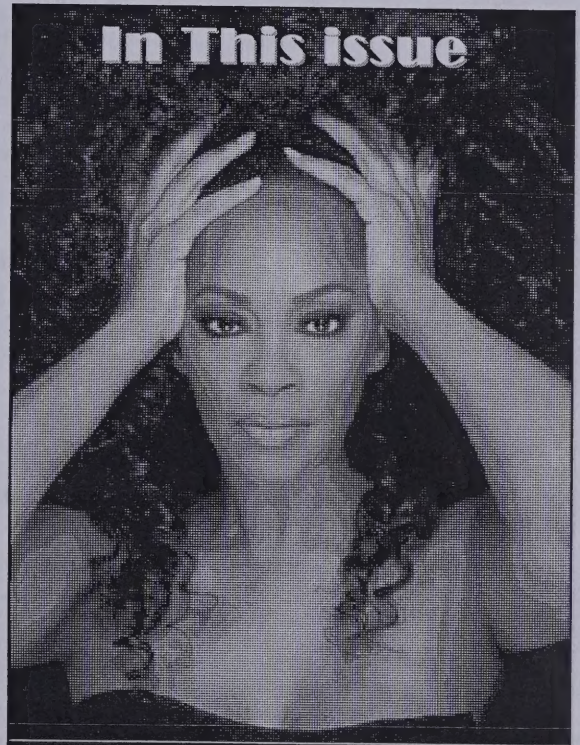
The Official Newsletter of Brothers & Sisters United Nashville & the BU Network Chapters
WARNING: Contains adult themes, language & images [Volume 8, Issue 54]

OCT / NOV / DEC 2006

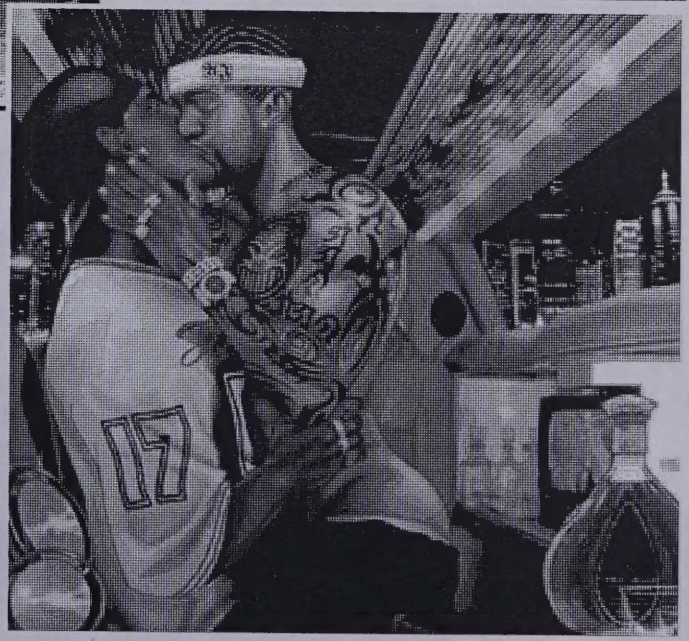


We Are Part Of You.org Ads Spark Community Mobilization

In This issue



Jody Watley gets a Makeover

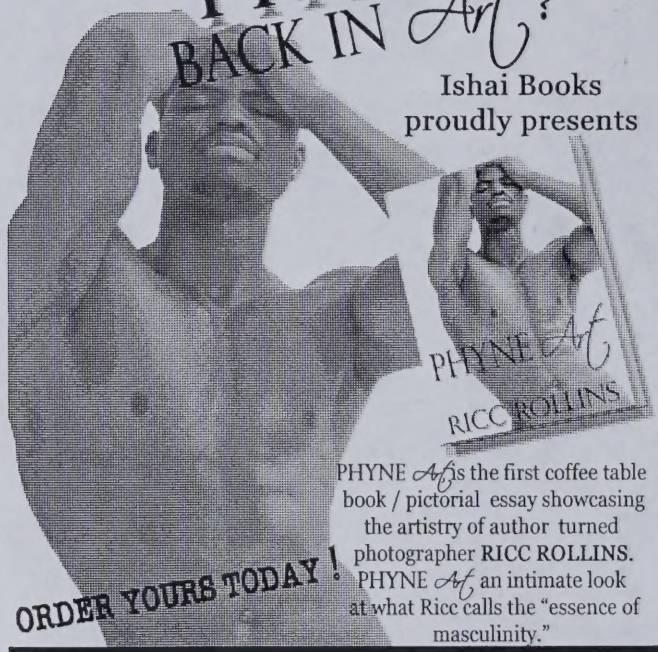


Reality Check: Flipping The Script To Reveal Our Voices, Our Words, and in Our Music

Comedian Dana Austin Set to Perform During Nashville's 4th Annual Black LGBT Pride Celebration

ISN'T IT TIME TO PUT THE "PHYNE" BACK IN *Art*?

Ishai Books proudly presents

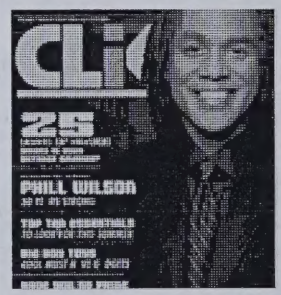


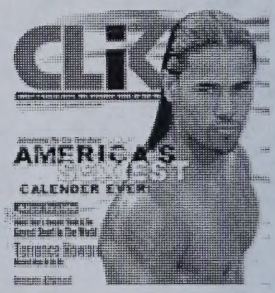
PHYNE *Art* is the first coffee table book / pictorial essay showcasing the artistry of author turned photographer RICC ROLLINS. PHYNE *Art* an intimate look at what Ricc calls the "essence of masculinity."

ORDER YOURS TODAY !

www.shadesofman.com

Subscribe now and SAVE 47% off our low cover price. That's right, for $20.00; you'll receive 12 monthly issues of the nation's # 1 black gay magazine. Your magazine will be delivered in discrete packages to protect your privacy.





The CLOSET Platinum Edition Vol 1

This re-mastered and re-edited platinum edition of the DVD drama series has over 6.5 hours of footage including the 97 minute pilot show, episodes 1 and 2 including 40 never before scenes, the making of the series, bloopers, interviews with the cast and an exclusive interview with the director of the series.

Pre-Order today & receive yours by October 24
Available in retail stores on November 1, 2006
Approximate running time: 410 minutes

Senwot Nella Film
a division of Senwot Nella Productions
The CLOSET a drama series
www.thecloset.tv

The BASU SOURCE

This newsletter is published to keep the African American Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered community in Nashville connected to the greater Black LGBT world. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by Brothers United, Young Brothers United, Sisters United, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride or Nashville CARES. Names & photos of persons appearing in any of THE BASU SOURCE issues are no indication of sexual orientation or health status.

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1-800-845-4266 ext. # 269
E-mail: BrosUnited@aol.com
BU web-site: www.brothersunited.com
Agency web-site: www.nashvillecares.org

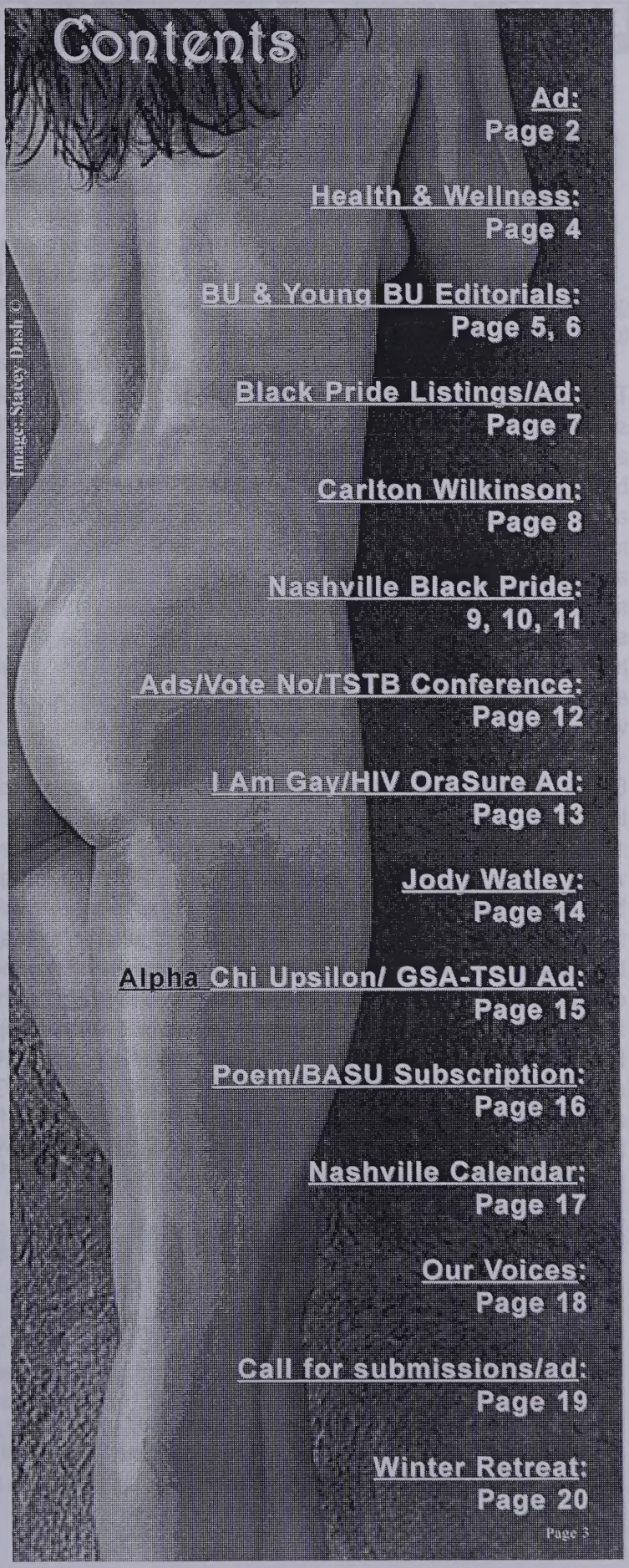
The Subscription rate for Nashville/MiddleTN area is free.
All others make $10 check/money order out to "Nashville CARES-BU" send to address above.
Don't like paper? Subscribe to our monthly eSOURCE e-mails and stay connected for free!

ALL CORRESPONDENCES ARE STRICTLY PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status, or be considered "out" with their sexuality to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc. Celebrating 10 Years of providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation.

The BU Network is autonomous from, yet complementary to the Nashville CARES BU/YBU programs in that all of the events & activities provide in-depth, longer term life skills required for success outside of, but essential to , HIV prevention, outreach and education. D. Jenkins is the primary contact for all programs.



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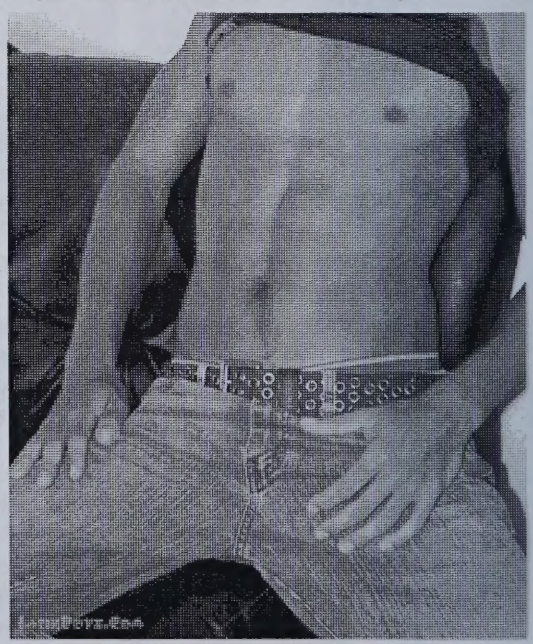
BU Health & Wellness Corner

Men Is Your Self-Esteem in Your Pants? www.gayhealth.com / www.foborthas.com

Bigger is not only better, but you feel better about yourself when you're big! At least that's the conclusion of a recent Dutch study undertaken at Utrecht University that says the length of his penis is key to a gay man's self esteem and how he sees his body in general. But before you frantically check Google or do a search under "penile enlargement", read on. Some health experts are quick to remind us that authentic self-esteem isn't necessarily packaged in those tight Calvin Kleins. But first, there's more on what the study found. The majority of gay men regard a large sexual organ as ideal, and having one is linked to self-esteem, reported Liesbeth Woertman, a senior lecturer in clinical psychology.

The study also said that how gay men see their penis has considerable influence on how they value themselves in general. The study did not assess the possibility of a similar link in heterosexual men, but Woertman noted that there are various reasons for assuming that the self-image of heterosexual men is linked to how they evaluate the most characteristically masculine part of their body. Dr. Stephen Goldstone, Medical Director of GayHealth.com, concurs with this aspect of the study. "I'd bet that straight men are just as fixated on the size of their penises as gay men," he says. "And let's face it, it's safe to say that a majority of straight men are also size queens-we know they are when it comes to women's breasts." Since it's a safe bet that most men fall into the *average* penis size category, however; what's a normally hung guy to do? Psychologist Greg Cason, PhD, questions if one actually has anything to do with the other: "I have never encountered any research that says that looks alone equate to self-esteem," says Cason. "But, people who are attractive do have an advantage." "Maybe those that have a positive view of their penis also have a positive view of themselves in general," he says. This "chicken or the egg" type scenario opens the door for all men to enjoy self-worth, says Cason. "There is no doubt that a man with a small dick can have a very good self-esteem, just as a man with a huge one can feel worthless and undesirable," he says.

But, like a handsome face or a hot body, a big dick is a physical asset that can bring more sexual partners, which can translate to more connections with other human beings, says Cason. "Some people develop their mind; some excel in their profession; some work out in the gym; some steal money so that they can appear rich," he says. "Someone with a big dick is just born that way. It may not be fair, but it is certainly a fact of life." The men surveyed said their penises were the most attractive parts of their body, followed by their stomachs and their skin. Woertman has previously confirmed that gay men spend more time, money and effort on their appearance than straight men. Why? She offers as one explanation that gay men are sex objects for other men. Woertman believes that gay and straight men differ little from each other, and that their attitudes are converging regarding appearance. But even for the genetically blessed, authentic self-esteem shouldn't be measured in inches. "There's nothing wrong with being well-hung," says Glen Heiss, a psychologist in New York City. "But if you make the measurement of your penis the overall measure of your self-worth, you're going to end up shortchanging yourself, no matter how many inches you count on the ruler."



<u>Survery Findings from this article show how some men feel about their package</u>:

Do you think your penis size is?
Below average: 18.3%, Average: 52.3%, Above average: 22.1%, Large: 7.4% [503 respondents]

How does your penis size affect your self-esteem?
It plays no role: 9.1%, I definitely wish I was bigger, but I like myself: 59.6%, I get a lot of self-esteem because I'm well hung: 5.0%, I like myself just as I am:17.2%, It's not the size it's what you do with it! 9.1% [505 respondents]

From Where I Sit

by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor & Publisher

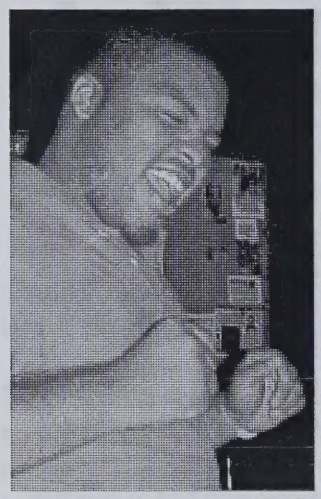
So, were you surprised to see two men kissing on the cover? No? Well, were you surprised that the image was of two thug type brothas? Yes? Hhmmm, do you think that is because Hip Hop images only seem to reflect the hard, straight Black Male? I hope not! Gay/Same Gender Loving African Americans and other Men of Color come in all shapes, sizes and styles. I first came across the image a year or so ago, and finally thought it was time to pull it out of the vault. The caption placed under it about 'flipping the script' was used to help promote the OUR VOICES Project. For years we've heard rumors and or read articals that some of our most famous entertainers make derogatory statements about their LGBT fans. Most recently there was some drama about Patti Labelle performing for a known homophobic pastor, rapper Busta Rhymes making hateful statements to a gay fan after a concert, as well as LIFEbeat having to cancel a HIV fund raising concert due to community outrage over them having Jamaican dance hall artist, Beenie Man scheduled to appear. Did they not know he still performs songs with hatfeful, antigay lyrics? Unfortunately, these stories will come and go, but each time we continue to support artists that honestly don't give a damn about us, we stand to loose a little self respect, especially when some of us keep purchasing their material. Yeah, some of the allegations may need clarification, and you should get the full story first before you start throwing out old albums or CD's, but what about the hateful statements that are real? As a collector of most Black Gay books and music, I was amazed at the number of people who had no clue that there are plenty of artists who are out with their sexuality, and who are producing fabulous work. This is the main reason I decided to start the OUR VOICES Project. If you are tired of changing pronouns when you are singing your favorite song to your Boo, and or just want to hear material that speaks to you, your community, and experiences, please read the article on page 18. Support for our LBGT artists is something that we all can do, and hey, you may even like what you hear!

With that said, I bet some of you may now be wondering why I chose to put Jody Watley on the cover of this quarters issue? The first reason is because she has consistently been an ally to the Black LGBT Community. She has performed during a variety of Black Pride events, this year's Gay Games in Chicago, and her current music video was produced by two African American Gay/Same Gender Loving Men. The second reason is because I recently noticed that I have all of her CD's and/or vinyl albums (yes, I am that old). I had no idea that I had them all, and didn't consider myself a fan, but guess I can not hide the fact at this point. My final reason is simply because I thought it would be nice to give some love to an artist that continues to grow musically, and always seems to make my toes tap.

As many of you know, Nashville's 4th Annual Black Pride takes place October 27-29. The NBP Planning Team and I have really worked hard to produce a celebration that participants will be proud of. Like the larger cities, our weekend is full of events and gatherings developed to educate, affirm, and entertain the community. Even though we are expecting a lot of guests from out of town, we still need the support of the local LGBT Folks to make it come together. This year, there will be an extra buzz in the air because we are sharing the weekend with the Tennessee State University Homecoming Celebration. That's right, people will be everywhere! Since this is the second time this has happened, we made a few allowances to ensure that we generally will not compete for attendees. With that said, we do hope that you, your friends, and family make more than the regular effort to come out and support our local Black Pride. We know that people like to party, but PLEASE attend the other cultural events such as the book signing, spoken word event, the Play, and Film Fest. We are more than a slammin' party, and really want you to get the full experience, and new perspective of what it means to be a Person of Color that is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered. Our theme says it best; it's all about Changing Hearts & Minds!

For the past 6 months, Avery, the current Young Brothers United Peer Coordinator, has really helped me reenergize the program. Since he is about to graduate from Vanderbilt University, and plans on moving out of Nashville by the end of the year, it is our hope that we can find another person to step into the position to continue the growth of YBU. I knew that his time with us was going to be short, but I had no idea that he would be such a great person to have around. I love learning new things, and Avery was able to give me a new perspective on things, as well as helped me to see the similarities in our lives and experiences. The thought of going through another interview process isn't something that I wake up smiling about, but know that our work, mission and vision commands that someone will step up to the plate and hopefully be as willing and able to make a difference as he was. I wish you much success my young comrade! I luv ya', and your ass better not forget to stay in touch, cause all type of shit will go down, and it won't be cute :-)

A Note From Young Brothers United Coordinator



I hope you guys are all "blessed and highly favored" as my grandmother would say. Instead of me writing another story for the tales of the crypt series, I decided that I would share some thoughts and concerns with you.

I want to say that I am pretty proud of the strides that the young black gay community is making. I am talking with many of you and it is obvious that we are on a good track. Many of us are doing well in school, working, volunteering, and doing other positive things to better ourselves and our community. I think it is a fair estimate to say that I personally know of at least 45 gay men of color in school. Granted, that number seems very small, but in reality it is very high considering the percentages of Black men entering college as opposed to jail. The question now remains are we ready to step in positions of leadership within our community.

My concern is that our focus will be on empowering the majority of the black community but not all of it. For example, let's take Harold Ford. One would imagine that a black man would be reluctant to write in discrimination into our constitution, but the fact of the matter is ... his vote, according to him, he will be voting yes on the marriage amendment. I understand that we all have our religious beliefs and those are to be well respected, but the fact of the matter is that gay marriage never hurt anyone. His vote is simply to go along with whoever will vote for him. This is to be expected, but my fear is that we are doing what it takes to be the next senator, even president, but are we going to stand up against these types of laws. Even if you do not run as a gay candidate, at least do the community as well as yourself in standing up for your rights as a human.

Next on my list would be issues concerning the YBU/ finding a man thing. I prefer that our gatherings not become the new meeting grounds for casual hookups, but at the same time I can not stop human nature. By all means, if two people like each other, they are free to do what they will, but tact is a great thing to have. To be honest I chuckle inside every time I hear someone ask about finding a man because I am way too interested in the social dynamics involved.

I found out that many people have concerns about the type of people who attend the meetings. Typically I get something like "is it full of queens, you know I don't like queens honey". Truth is, if you come to the meeting then maybe you can see for yourself because the range of a "queen" is very subjective to each person. For instance, one might see the rainbow bracelet on my wrist and instantly say queen, while others might think that someone with long hair is a queen. Granted I personally have issues with this because I think we are passing judgment on people especially when we do not want it passed on us. LETS BE REAL, even the best "top" loves a dick once in a while right?....and what's the issue with someone being a queen anyway?

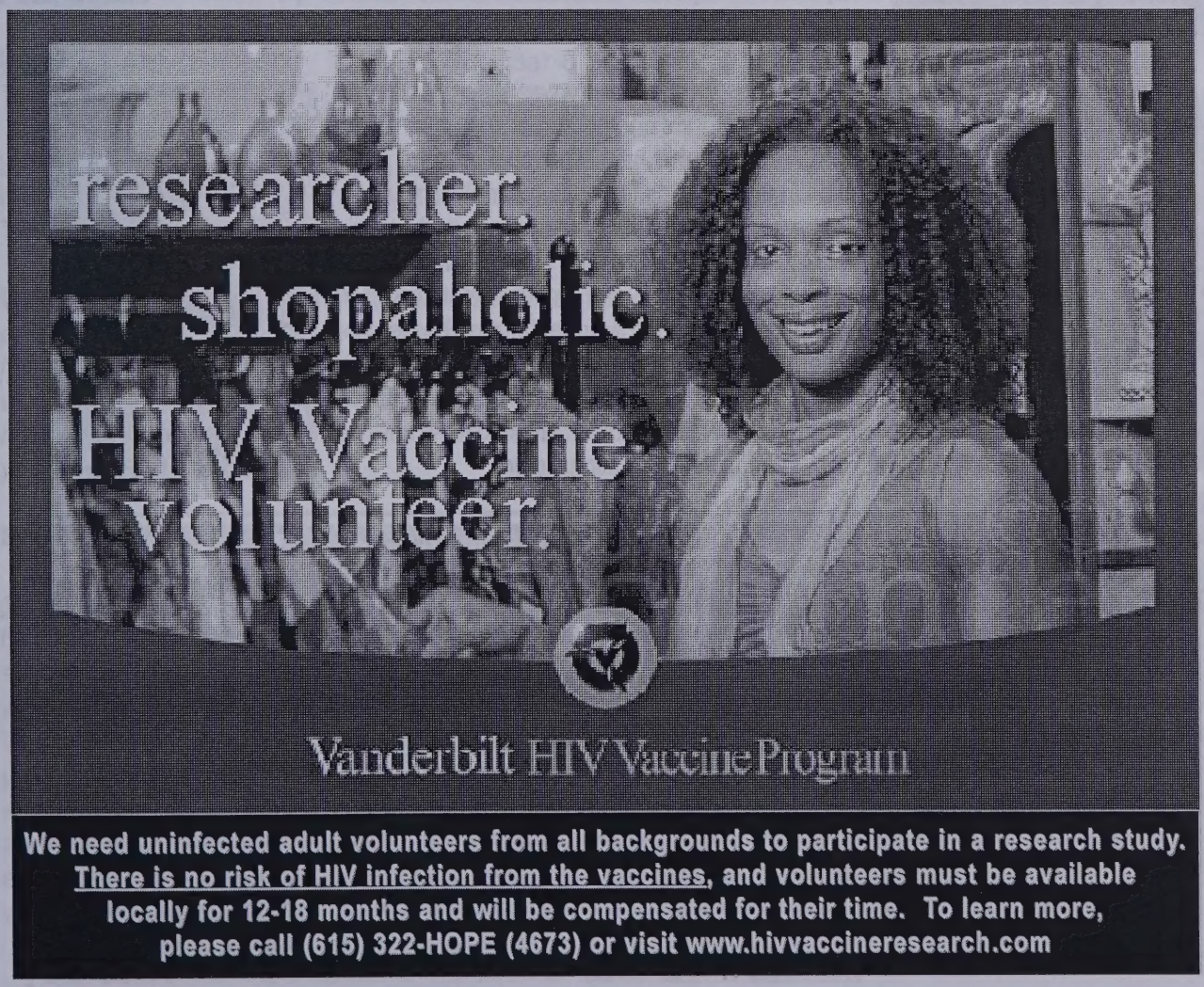
As many of you already know, I am leaving this December to pursue graduate school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. I have to admit that I thoroughly enjoyed my time here. Meeting many of you have enriched my life beyond measure and for that I am truly thankful. Dwayne and I talk all the time now, and I do not think that will stop. So...I expect to hear good things.

Best wishes, Avery R. S. Ewing

October - November Black Pride Schedule

OCTOBER 5 - 9: **DALLAS, TX BLACK PRIDE** 214-498-5815
Email: dallasblack2k@yahoo.com / www.dallasblackpride.com
OCTOBER 6 - 8: **BALTIMORE, MD BLACK GAY PRIDE**
443-691-9669 / Email: bmoreblackpride@yahoo.com / www.bmoreblackpride.org
OCTOBER 6 - 9: **OAKLAND, CA BLACK PRIDE** 510-268-0646 /
Email: tbhcafe@pacbell.net
OCTOBER 12 - 15: **JACKSON, MS BLACK PRIDE** msblkpride@yahoo.com
www.mississippiblackpride.com
OCTOBER 27 - 29: **NASHVILLE, TN BLACK PRIDE** ** See Pages 9-11 **
NOVEMBER 2 - 5: **SHREVEPORT, LA BLACK PRIDE** Phone: 817-401-7678

All schedules are subject to change without notice. Please contact the individual city for more details on host hotels and activity listings. This end of the year list is provided by Brothers United Network, Inc. & The International Federation of Black Prides Organization, Inc. *www.ifbprides.org*

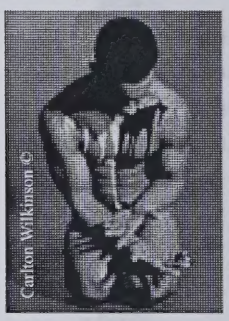

researcher.
shopaholic.
HIV Vaccine
volunteer.
Vanderbilt HIV Vaccine Program
We need uninfected adult volunteers from all backgrounds to participate in a research study.
There is no risk of HIV infection from the vaccines, and volunteers must be available
locally for 12-18 months and will be compensated for their time. To learn more,
please call (615) 322-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hivvaccineresearch.com

Nashville Gallery & Internationally Known Photographer Moving Out of State

When I first met Carlton F. Wilkinson, world renowned photographer and local Gallery Director, in 1996, I was very intimidated. I had only been in Nashville for two years, and just started coordinating the Brothers United Program. I had heard that his gallery would be a great location to host a social event, and that he would be a good person to connect with. Within 20 minutes of our initial face to face conversation, he had jumped on board, and we've been good friends ever since. Not only did we host our first *Coming Out* Reception of sorts at *In The Gallery* that year, we went on to use his family's reception hall; The Onyx Room, located above his gallery as our main space for our popular SIMBE Social HIV Testing events for 5 consecutive years from 2000-2005. This outreach project not only made history with the approach to testing members within the Black LGBT Community, but also was featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET), and reached over 2 million viewers.

In The Gallery will close its physical doors located at 624 A Jefferson Street, more than 19 years of serving Nashville and beyond. He has accepted a Professorship and Gallery Directorship at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, that begins January 2007. On his web site, Carlton states that "it has been his pleasure to have been a part of the contemporary, Nashville Arts Renaissance". He goes on to say that he "hopes to continue art-related relationships in Nashville, as well as branching out with an international focus.

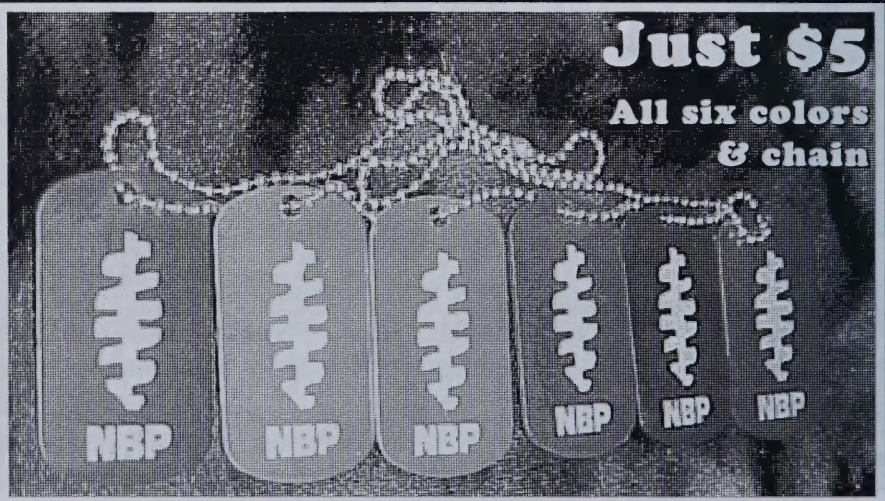
Carlton's presence will definitely be missed in our city. *In the Gallery* was the second oldest private gallery in Middle Tennessee that produced five to six one-person or group exhibitions annually. He was the official photographer for Brothers United, and is the only person that has captured my partner and I in the buff (see image to the left). The images he took of us were featured in a variety of magazines, and is still a favorite of many in the LGBT photography world. Carlton's wish is to be able to continue to work with art collectors and enthusiasts in the future. *In The Gallery* will commute its business to a virtual (Internet) gallery that is currently in development. Please join Carlton for the gallery's last art exhibit in Nashville entitled; "A Gathering of Artists, Lovers, and Friends", which is on display through October 12. You can check out his new web site in early 2007 at: www.inthegalleryinternational.com



2006 Fundraiser for Nashville Black Pride

6 Rainbow Colored Dog Tags with our official symbol

Limited Supply, Get Yours NOW!

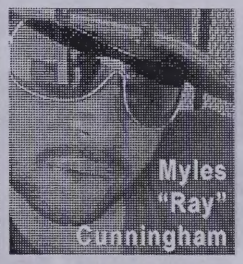


2006 Nashville Black Pride Schedule at a Glance: "Changing Hearts & Minds"

Host Hotel: Quality Inn & Suites, 2401 Brick Church Pike Nashville, TN 37207 (615) 226-4600

The Black Pride schedule provided in the BASU Newsletter is subject to change without notice. Please check the updated listings on our www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm website or in the official Nashville Black Pride Guide which will be release on or before October 15th.

FRIDAY: October 27th



3 PM - 5 PM; GSA Play Shop: FREE at TSU Floyd Payne Student Center, room # 319 Before you hit the streets to celebrate either Black Pride or homecoming, drop by the special workshop entitled, "That's Not Love, That's Stupid!", facilitated by Angela Harvey from Let's T.A.L.K. Includes an appearance by Myles "Ray" Cunningham from the BET hit reality show COLLEGE HILL Sponsored by the Gay Straight Alliance at Tennessee State University, Nashville Black Pride, and the Young BU Program at Nashville CARES.

6 PM - 8 PM; Opening Reception: FREE at the Quality Inn & Suites, 2401 Brick Church Pike, 37206

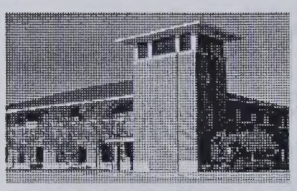
9 PM - 1 AM; "Rhapsody in BLU": BLU Bar & Night Club, 1709 Church Street, 37203. The cost is $15. Featuring live performances.

9 PM - 1 AM; "Not Feeling Blue?": Check out our other official gathering for the grown and sexy! Enjoy a night of good music, and good friends. Location TBA in the official Black Pride Guide.

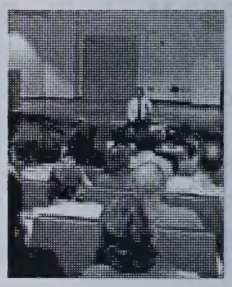
Wear Your Pride Discount: Any participant that attends either of these Friday parties wearing college related, fraternity, sorority, or any Greek letter organization paraphernalia on their shirts or pants get a $5 discount. Sorry, no buttons, hats, or other removable garments or pins will be accepted. Why are we offering this? Because taking a united stance as LGBT students, alumni, or members within community organizations is definitely what our pride celebration is all about. Let your freedom ring!

SATURDAY: October 28th

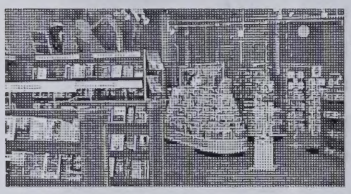
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM; "Come OUT, Come OUT Where Ever You Are!": FREE at Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. HRC is proud to sponsor Angela Harvey of Let's T.A.L.K. (Together Acquire Lasting Knowledge). Her interactive workshop is sure to empower those who are out, nearly out or still in the closet. She will examine the emotional and psychological pros and cons of coming out, plus the importance of being true to self, and getting involved with the fight for equality for all. Come and be empowered, encouraged, enlightened, exposed, educated, enhanced, and entertained. You will not want to miss this workshop.



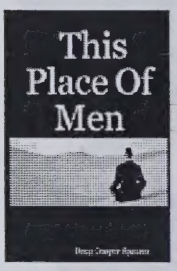
SATURDAY: October 28th continued

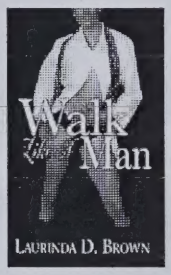


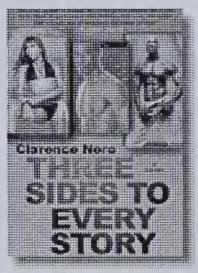
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM; National Black Justice Coalition Town Hall Meeting: FREE at Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Join NBJC Communications Director, Herndon Davis, and a distinguished panel of community Stake Holders as they tackle issues such as internalized homophobia, marriage equality, coming out, and the role of African American LGBT Community in the Black Church.

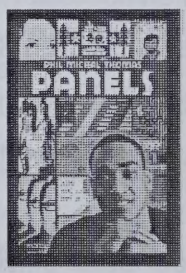


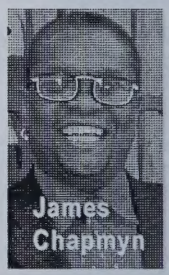
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM; Black Book & Spoken Word Xplosion: FREE at OUTLOUD Department Store, 1703 Church Street, 37203. Authors include; Doug Cooper-Spencer; THIS PLACE OF MEN, Laurinda D. Brown; WALK LIKE A MAN, UNERCOVER, and FIRE & BRIMSTONE, Clarence Nero; THREE SIDES TO EVERY STORY, Phil Michal Thomas; PANELS, Marquette Carney (aka Mont' Richard); NOT WHAT I WANTED, BUT WHAT I NEEDED & SWALLOW THE MOON, and Melissa Gordon; REASON & BROWN GIRL BLUES. Also featuring local poets and spoken word performances, Chattanooga artist; James H. Mckissic, and playwright; James H. Chapmyn.







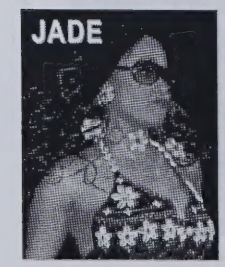


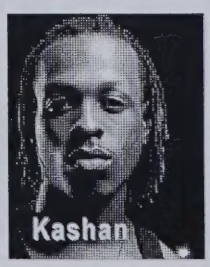


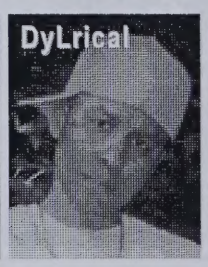
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM; "The Most Fun You Will Have at Church": FREE at Church Street Café, 1705 Church Street (directly next door to Outloud). Come laugh your ass off at Lesbian Comedian Dana Austin from Cleveland Ohio. Also featuring live music from local female rapper Too Deep.

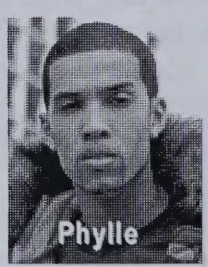
9 PM - 2 AM; "Blood of Kings & Queens- A Night of Royalty": The Official Benefit Party at the Gibson Showcase, 161 Opry Mills Drive in Opry Mills Mall, $15 before Midnight $20 afterwards / 18 & older w/ proper ID ONLY. Dress to impress & wear whatever makes you feel like Royalty. Get your groove on, and look fabulous!Featuring special appearance by Miss Diamond Diva; JADE, and live vocal performances Kashan, DaLyrical, Phylle, and Mz. Jonz. Vendors, Door Prizes, Silent Auction & much more! Students w/Proper ID get a $5 discount.

Guest DJ's for the weekend include: DJ Robbie Rob from Philly & DJ Ken Terry from New Jersey.





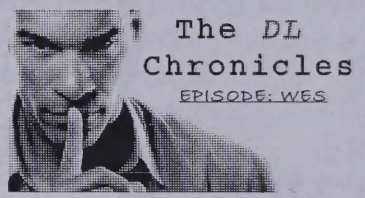




SUNDAY: October 29th

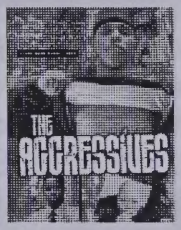
An Afternoon at the Historic Belcourt Theatre, $8 donation for an All Day Pass 1 PM - 9 PM. 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville 37217 (off 21st Avenue going towards Green Hills Mall, one block from the Wedgwood / Blakemore intersection). Students w/proper ID get a $3 discount. Also featuring special trailers.

SHORTS: "stepping to YOU", "The DL Chronicles: Wes Episode", "Jumping the Broom: The New Covenant", "The DL Chronicles: Robert Episode", "On the Low", and special segments from In the Life, the Gay & Lesbian Newsmagazine on Public TV.



DOCUMENTARIES: "How Do I Look?", "The Aggressives", "Coals Under Pressure", and "Homeless Stories: Tales from the Street".

FEATURE FILMS: "Keith & Greg", "Strange Fruit", and "Kinky Boots"



Black Pride is owned by Brothers Untied Network, Inc. Proud Member of the International Federation of Black Prides Organization. Below are our 2006 Sponsors & Supporters that help to make this celebration possible as of 10/2/06. Please check out our official Black Pride Guide or our web site for any updates.

FREEDOM PRESS
NEWS AND EVENTS FOR WHO WE ARE

OUT & ABOUT NEWSPAPER

GOLD LEVEL Media

CLIK
CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

OUT & ABOUT TODAY
NewsChannel5

Inside Out Nashville

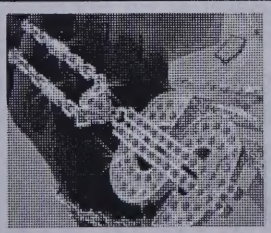
21 Queer Talk

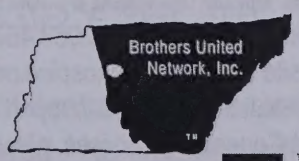
The Belcourt Theatre

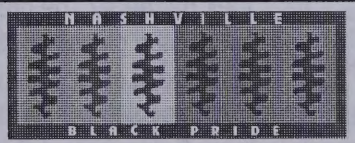
david atlanta

southern VOICE

BLING BLING Level







HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

NBJC

NASHVILLE CARES

iflbp

PFLAG Nashville

2 CENTS PRODUCTIONS
"In Art We Trust"

In the Life

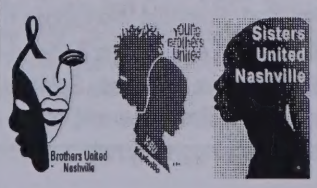
THE GAY AND LESBIAN

QUALITY INN

Planned Parenthood
Middle and East Tennessee

GREGMCNEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

nashville pride

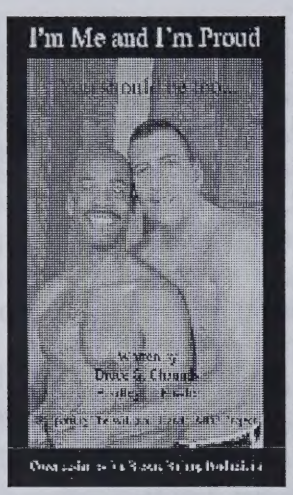


Gay-Straight Alliance at TSU
Tennessee State University

ΑΘΦ

OUTLOUD!
BOOKS • MUSIC • VIDEOS • GIFTS

MAC Productions



I'm Me And I'm Proud, You Should Be Too...

This book is written by Bruce G. Chaundy & Bradley L. Fowler, for the sole purpose of empowering the LGBT Community. Half of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit the William-Harold AIDS Project Inc., and help fund the services that they provide. Both authors are openly gay, out to family, friends, and the community. The following chapters are included:

Chapter One: Coming Out
Chapter Two: Family Orientation
Chapter Three: Religious Dogma
Chapter Four: Soul Mating
Chapter Five: Remembering HIV/AIDS
Chapter Six: Gay Segregation
Chapter Seven: Super Empowerment Zone (Gay Celebrities, Authors and Political Spokespersons)

The book is in production at this time, and should be available by the end of 2006. Contact us at: info@whapi.org
To reserve a copy of this dynamic and informative book, please send your donation of ten dollars to: The William-Harold AIDS Project Inc., P.O. Box 1434, Belleville, MI 48112-1434

On November 7th, 2006, Tennesseans are scheduled to step into their polling places and vote on an amendment to the Tennessee Constitution that would permanently ban marriage for same-sex couples in our state. The amendment would permanently deny equal marriage rights to Tennessee's same-sex couples. Similar amendments in other states have been used to justify denial of domestic partner benefits at state institutions and agencies to heterosexual as well as same-sex couples. This amendment may be interpreted to have other unintended consequences for the citizens of Tennessee.

The people of Tennessee have a historic opportunity to become the first state in the nation to reject a constitutional ban on legal protections for same-sex couples. Check out the website at http://votenoon1tn.com or pick up VoteNo buttons, bumper stickersand t-shirts available at OutLoud!

Vote NO on 1
Marriage Equality Matters

Gay Men's Grief Support Group for Loss of Partner

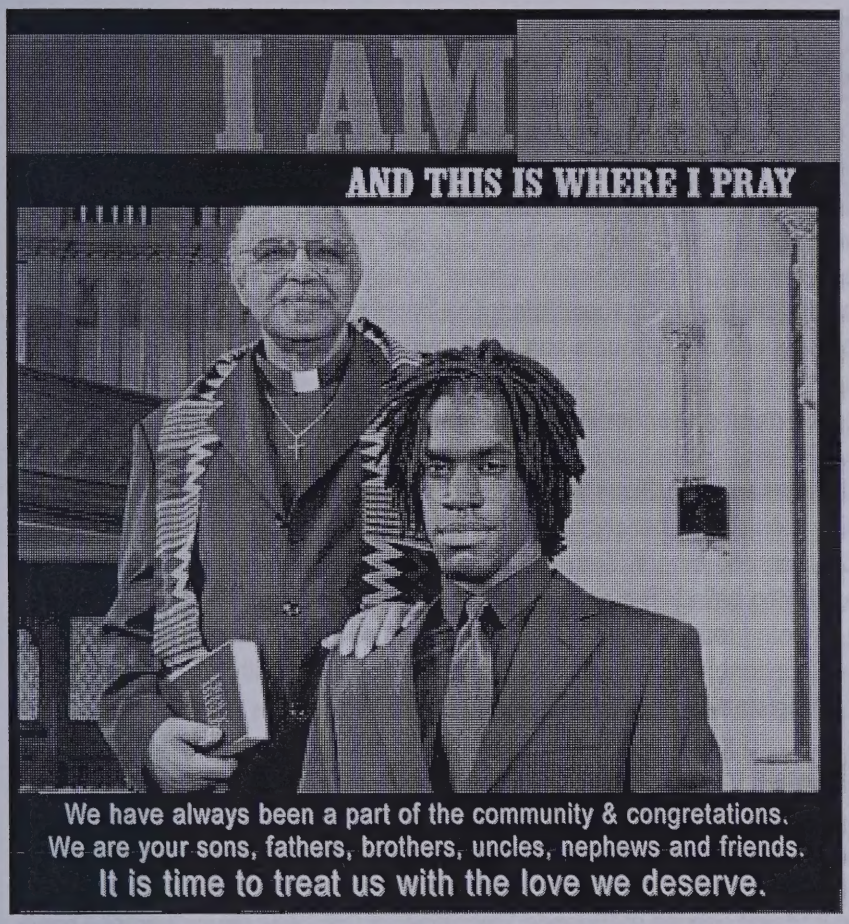
The Grief Center At Alive Hospice

Alive Hospice has a newly forming support group for Gay Men who are grieving the loss of their partners. The group will be facilitated by John Baker, M. Ed. For more information, or to register, please contact Mr. Baker at 615.963.4674, or jbaker@alivehospice.org. You can also check out the web site at: www.alivehospice.org. The Grief Center at Alive Hospice Mission is to provide loving care to people with life-threatening illnesses, support to their families, and service to the community in a spirit of enriching lives. For individual Grief Counseling services, please call our Grief Line at 615-963-4732.

Transsistahs Transbrothas (TSTB) Defying Gravity Conference 2006, October 19-22, Louisville, KY.

The Galt House Hotel and Suites, 502-568-3497. Room Rates: $105 (Single & Double) $115 (Triple) $125 (Quadruple). Shuttle Services Will Be Provided! Registration for out of state $65, residents of the Louisville Metro area $45. All full time college student $25 (Fall semester ID required at time of check-in) Meals: Dinner on Friday and Saturday will be provided. Potential Workshops may include: How to Make Alternative Pharmacies Work for Us, Life Skills Track: Legal Issues & Personal Finance, Before & After Surger: Setting Personal Goals, Family & Alternative Families, Spirituality: A Mulit-Faith Panel Discussion, Classism in the "T" Community, and Politics: How to Defend Our Rights (Monica Roberts). Check out the web site at: www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net

Changing the Paradigm
Oct. 19 - 22


I AM
AND THIS IS WHERE I PRAY
We have always been a part of the community & congretations.
We are your sons, fathers, brothers, uncles, nephews and friends.
It is time to treat us with the love we deserve.

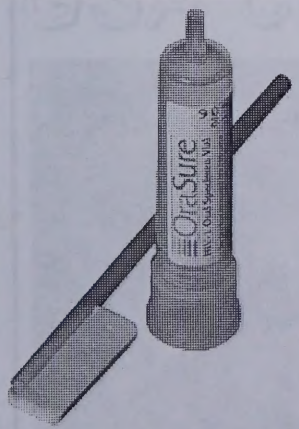
Why A Campaign?

To respond differently to HIV! As early as 1988, studies found high rates of HIV among African American/Black men who have sex with men (MSM). Now, in 2006, NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED! As you read this, the HIV epidemic is continuing to ravage Black MSM. The response to such devastating and heart wrenching news from Black gay and non-gay communities, as well as mainstream America has been shamefully inadequate.

The Campaign for Black Gay Men's Lives is about challenging the belief that our lives don't matter and are not worth saving. It exposes and confronts homophobia, which we see in the form of inaction, silence and even violence. It interrupts that silence with voices stentorian: Black gay men's lives matter!

In 2005, Black Gay New Yorkers saw thier own lives devalued in our own communities. There were several reported shootings and stabbings of Black Gay Men in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. Twenty Four year-old Dwan Prince was severely beaten in front of his home in Brownsville. And, there were at least four reported murders of Black Gay Men in NYC - Marvin Paige, Jamal James, Kenmoore Thomas, and most notably, 19 year-old Rashawn Brazell. The Campaign for Black Gay Men's Lives seeks to mobilize Black gay men and out allies in the community to end homophobia and the violence it spreads. For more information, check out *www.wearepartofyou.org*

This campaign is a project of the New York State Black Gay Network. It was funded by DOHMH and designed by Better World Advertising.



Finding out your HIV status is as easy as saying "aaah..."

It's free, confidential, 99% accurate and takes a few minutes.
No Blood / No Needles with results back in days!

Call Nashville CARES to set up an appointment at 259-4866
and ask for either Dwayne (x 269) or Avery (x 221).

Nashville CARES is located off Brick Church Pike at 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Take I-24/I-65 Trinity Lane exit # 87 and go away from Dickerson Road under the expressway. At the light in front of the EXXON make a right towards the McDonald's on to Brick Church Pike. After you go up a small hill and pass the new Brick Church Middle School on your right, get in your center turning lane when you see the "END 15 Mile" School Sign, and make the next left into the Brick Church Business Park. Follow the hill up to the building with the watch tower and make a left in front of the 501 sign in the grass, and then a quick right into the parking lot and that is Nashville CARES. We strongly suggest that you call to make an appointment rather than just doing a walk-in.

Jody Watley returns with a hot new body & CD of reworked dance songs

By Buck C. Cooke

www.washblade.com/2006/9-1/arts/music/music.cfm

THOSE WHO TUNED in to Bravo's gay-inclusive gym-centric reality show "Work Out," might have noticed a familiar face. Yes, that was Jody Watley trying to shed some pounds and doing squats and cardio with her gay trainer, Doug. Watley's body isn't the only thing getting an overhaul. This '80s and '90s dance diva (you know you remember "Looking for a New Love") is ready for a comeback, and she is doing it by making over her image and a bunch of older songs.

Watley has released "The Makeover," a unique album of ambient dance hits inspired by songs from the '70s and '80s, with a few new gems thrown in for good measure. Watley is eclectic in her selection of cover songs, with material from Madonna, Bob Marley, the Carpenters, Diana Ross and Chic, among others. The debut single is a radically reworked version of Madonna's "Borderline." Watley transforms it into a loving ballad. The cover of Marley's "Waiting in Vain" is ideal for a jazz club, dinner party or after-hours set thanks to the smooth production and Watley's dreamy delivery. The jazzy, smooth vibe continues on Ross' "Love Hangover" with a sultry saxophone. "I Want Your Love" is one of the more faithful adaptations on the album. Chic's original version shines through, complete with snappy guitar hook.

PULLING OUT ALL THE sexual stops, Watley delivers a medley of hits by the Carpenters that smolders with sensuality. "Close To You/Superstar/We've Only Just Begun" is made for hitting the sheets. Watley re-imagines some of her past work as well. "Don't You Want Me," one of her earliest solo hits, is presented as slick electronica on King Britt's Scuba Mix. The Mark de Clive-Lowe Makeover Mix of "Midnight Lounge" is filled with strings and piano to make you groove as you wind down from your night on the town. "Friendz" is an updated version of "Friends," recorded for the 1989 album "Larger Than Life," one of the first tracks to combine a top vocalist with rap (I guess this means we can blame Watley for today's ubiquitous guest rapper). Eric B. and Rakim did the rapping on the original, and Voshaun Gotti rocks the mic this time around. The CD's material features powerful social messages and is a testament to perseverance in the face of adversity in its many forms - family pressures, single parenthood and war. In addition to writing many of the tracks, Watley also served as executive producer for the CD and pressed it on her own record label, Avitone Records. "The Makeover" is a wonderful breath of musical fresh air. Watley puts her own mark on the classic tracks and turns out some excellent new music to add to her extensive discography. She may not be the biggest name in electronica, but Watley is certainly carving out her place in the market with velvety vocals and a keen ear for the unique.

'The Makeover' Jody Watley, Avitone Records / Featuring 13 tracks is available at www.giantstep.net for the special price of $12.99, as well as all Virgin MegaStores & iTUNES

The CD was the # 1 seller at Virgin stores in August -September, and ranked as high as # 5 on iTUNES downloads as of this printing.

You can also check out her live performance at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago & her new music video, "Border Line" produced by the creators of the film *The DL Chronicles*, business & Life Partners, Quincy Lenear & Deondray Gossett.

www.jodywatley.net
www.myspace.com/jodywatley

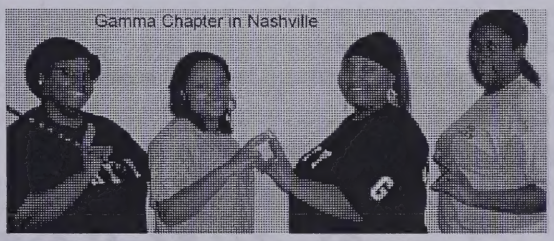
Alpha Chi Upsilon, a Lesbian Focused Sorority Organization

Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority was founded on July 28, 2005 by April Blair. August 28, 2005 marked the first and founding line of Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority. Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority has become a sisterhood that plans to stand the test of time. Our colors are Black, Silver, and Cerulean. Perspective members must be willing to have an open mind and willing to learn from other peoples beliefs and backgrounds. Women of Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority embrace various cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. The Women of Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority also have a brother organization, Alpha Omega Chi Fraternity.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How many chapters do you have? Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority currently has 3 active chapters; Alpha Omega Chapter - Memphis, TN, Beta Chapter- Houston, TX, and Gamma Chapter- Nashville, TN.

How old do you have to be to join? You have to be 18 years old or older to join Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority. However, to express interest you can be 17 years old. We are currently looking for strong women to head and start chapters in other cities nationwide.


Gamma Chapter in Nashville

Do you have to be a student to join? You do not have to be a student to join Alpha Chi Upsilon. However, you must either be working, or a student to be an active member of AXY.

Can I be apart of another sorority while being a member of AXY? Although we would prefer if our members are only apart of AXY, we do not stop members from perusing other organizations. AXY does not allowed members to join from LGBT organization of the same status.

The Gamma Chapter was founded by Soror Chichi and Soror ALPHA-M.A.L.E who are also founding members of Alpha Chi Upsilon Sorority. If you are in the Nashville or surrounding areas and would like more info on the Gamma Chapter please email gammachapter@alphachiupsilon.com To Learn more about the unique sisterhood and brotherhood organizations, you can visit either web sites at: www.alphachiupsilon.com or www.alphaomegachi.com

GSA Chapter @Tennessee State University

The Gay-Straight Alliance meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons, as well as provide an information table in the Student Center every other Wednesday

Everyone Welcome

For questions, dates & times contact: tsugsa@hotmail.com

Supported in part by the BU& YBU Programs at Nashville CARES, Nashville Black Pride & the HRC HBCU Program

Everyone Can't be in Your FRONT ROW. Life is a theater so invite your audiences carefully. Not everyone is holy enough and healthy enough to have a FRONT ROW seat in our lives. There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance. It's amazing what you can accomplish when you let go, or at least minimize your time with draining, negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationships, friendships, fellowships and family!

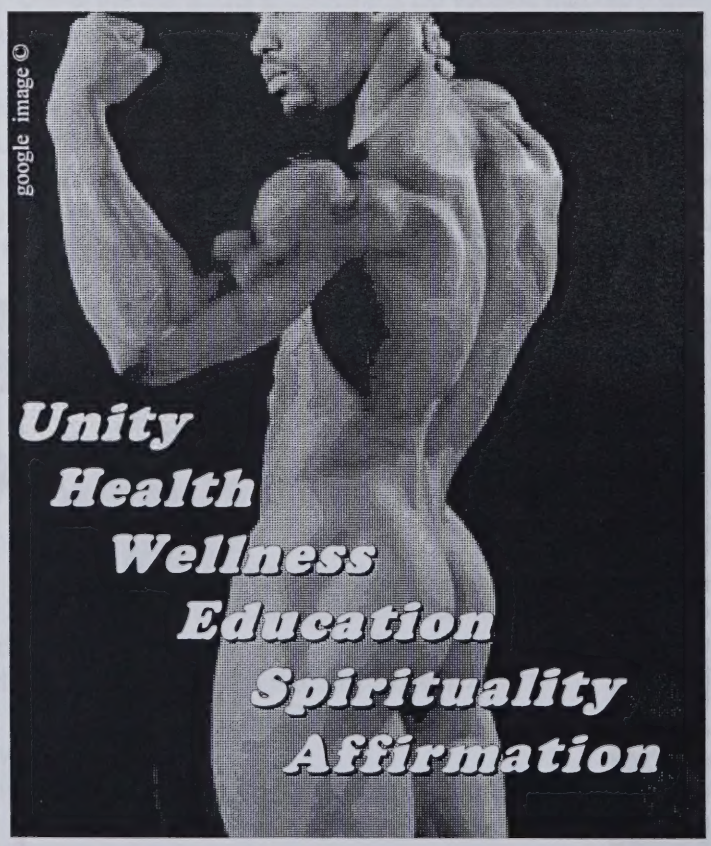
Everyone Can't be in Your FRONT ROW. Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention to: Which ones lift and which ones lean? Which ones encourage and which ones discourage? Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are just going downhill? When you leave certain people, do you feel better or feel worse? Which ones always have drama or don't really understand, know and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you?

Everyone Can't be in Your FRONT ROW. The more you seek God and the things of God, the more you seek quality, the more you seek not just the hand of God but the face of God, the more you seek things honorable, the more you seek growth, peace of mind, love and truth around you, the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be moved to the balcony of your life.

Everyone Can't be in Your FRONT ROW. You cannot change the people around you...but you can change the people you are around! Ask God for wisdom and discernment and choose wisely the people who sit in the FRONT ROW of your life. Remember that FRONT ROW seats are for special and deserving people and those who sit in your FRONT ROW should be chosen carefully.

Everyone Can't be in Your FRONT ROW. *- Author Unknown*

The BASU SOURCE



Subscribe Today!

Nashville & Middle TN Residents *FREE*

With a current readership of over 750 households in Tennessee and across the country, you will not find a better deal anywhere! Let us be your local *source* of info into our ever changing Black LGBT/Same Gender Loving world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail for free. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order out to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.

Calender of Events

October

10/4: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center 11 AM - 1 PM

10/11: **National Coming Out Day**: Church Street Freedom Press 3rd Annual "Coming Out to Help" food drive for Second Harvest. 6 PM at the Lipstick Lounge 6-8 PM. Citywide events TBA

10/14: **Queer Talk Radio Interview on 91.1 WRVU FM**: 3-4 PM "Out of the Closet"- Nashville's only LGBT news show.

10/14: **10th Annual Mr. Esquire Pageant**: Gibson Showcase, sponsored by MAC Productions. Contact 615 498-1956 or e-mail them at macproductionspageant@yahoo.com

10/17: **Madelyn J. McCray Show** interview- Church Street Cafe' 1707 Church St. from 7 -9 PM. Next to OUTLOUD Department Store.

10/19: **Transsistahs Transbrothas (TSTB) Defying Gravity Conference 2006, October 19-22,** Louisville, KY. The Galt House Hotel and Suites, 502-568-3497. Room Rates: $105 (Single & Double) $115 (Triple) $125 (Quadruple). Shuttle Services Will Be Provided! Registration for out of state $65, residents of the Louisville Metro area $45. All full time college student $25 (Fall semester ID required at time of check-in) Meals: dinner on Friday and Saturday will be provided. For more details go to: www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net Brother Joshua at bro.joshua@netzero.com or 502 637 5672, or contact Monica Roberts at monicar62@yahoo.com or 502-899-9139

10/19: **International Drag King Extravaganza**, Austin TX

10/24: **"Beyond Beats and Rhymes"** A Documentary by award winning creator and producer, Byron Hurt. The FREE screening at 7 p.m. in Furman 114 on the Vanderbilt campus, and is open to the public. Through his documentary work, Byron has brought to the forefront of mainstream culture some of the damaging effects of racism and sexism in American culture, challenging audiences to examine their own beliefs. With his latest work, he examines representations of manhood, sexism, and homophobia in hip-hop culture. Byron will be available for guestions after the screening. For more information contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu

10/25: **GSA Outreach Table**: TSU Campus Student Center 11 AM - 1 PM

10/27-29: **Nashville Black Pride # 4**: "Changing Hearts & Minds", Call 800 845-4266 x 269 or contact NashBlackPride@aol.com, www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm

November

11/4: **Nashville GLBT Life & Business Expo**: The 2nd Annual Gay Life and Business Expo will be held at LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans on Saturday, November 4.The Expo will be held in the Club West section of the stadium at LP Field. Sponsored by the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce (formally NAPP) www.musiccityglbtchamber.com

11/7: **Election Day:** Remember to Vote No on 1!

11/10-12: **Brothers United Memphis Presents: "Spirited"**. Join the BU Memphis chapter as they welcome Lisa Moore and G. Winston James for a special book signing event. This event takes place during the same weekend as the International C.O.G.I.C Convention. Location in Memphis TBA. Contact Anthony for more details at hardawayarg@yahoo.com or 901 331-3579.

11/12: **ARTRAGEOUS 0019**: "Shaken Not Stirred" A benefit for Nashville CARES -The Late Party will be held at City Hall in the Gulch from 10PM to Midnight. www.artrageous.org

11/20: **National Transgender Day of Remembrance**

11/23: **A Thanksgiving Gathering@Malcolms**: Join BU, YBU, SU Volunteers, and others as we gather in Clarksville TN for a feast of fun and friendship. RSVP required. Please e-mail insatiiable_tn@yahoo.com for more information and directions.

11/30 - 12/3: **Brothers United Winter Retreat # 10**: A Family Reunion, Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center. Call 800 845-4266 x 269 or contact BrosUnited@aol.com, www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

December

11/30 - 12/3: **BU Winter Retreat # 10**

12/1: **World AIDS Day**

Our Voices: A Compilation of Black LGBT Music & Spoken Word

The purpose behind these Nashville based underground CD's is to inspire Black Same Gender Loving listeners to support the musical and spoken word talents of artist within the African American Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community. This disc is not simply a bootleg, but an honest attempt to share our lives and stories in a way that empowers & entertains. By providing each artists' contact information, it is our hope that people become familiar with each work and recognize "our" material universally. We encourage you to purchase what you like, and show your support for the artist financially.

Our CD contains adult lyrics, depictions of violence, same sex relations and substance use content that is not intended for listeners under 18. The CD includes Spoken Word, R& B, House, Hip Hop, Rap, Gospel and Comical themed songs which have been compiled to appeal to a diverse audience of SGL/LGBT People of Color. All material is protected by copyright law and by international treaties. These Compilation CDs are for promotional use only! Their intent is to help each artist get their work out and spark interest & sales from listeners. You may not otherwise sell, publicly perform, publicly display, or create derivative works of this material, unless authorized by the appropriate copyright owner(s). Note: Many artists provide free MP3s and samples of their work via the internet. Please check them out and help spread the news.

OV's Top Bump & Grind Grooves: [Single]

ARTIST	TRACK TITLE	HIGHEST RANK
1. Jesse Afriyie	Ooh U	1
2. Aaron Carl	Just Like	2
3. Mz. Jonz	Get Nasty	3
4. Pink Tee	Diamond Diva-PODS	4
5. Tipsy	Tori Fixx	1
6. Anthony Antoine	Ass	1
7. Dalyrical	They Wantin' This	7
8. We Like Dem Boyz	TAB ft. Smoke (Knup Boyz)	1
9. Hood Karma Sutra	Phylle	9
10. Karter	Whatcha gonna do for me?	10

OV's Top Full Length CD Projects (8 tracks or more)

ARTIST	CD TITLE	HIGHEST RANK
1. William Scott	Who's Afriad of William Scott	1
2. Aaron Carl	Detrevolution	1
3. Jesse Afriyle	Exposure	3
4. Tori Fixx	Marry Me	1
5. Tim'm	Songs from Red Dirt	2
6. Mz. Jonz	Love Jonz Vol 1.	6
7. Anthony Antoine	Closets on Fire	1
8. Billy Porter	At the Corner of Broadway & Soul	3

New Arrivals: Cig'R- *It's Just Me*, Diamon Diva-The Punk of Da South-*Gay America Mixtape 06*, Juba Kalamka-*Ooogaboogabeats EP*, Shayvonna-*Take Me As I AM*, Nhojj-*Someday Peace, Love & Freedom*

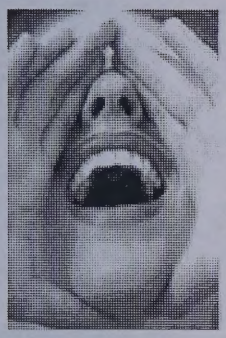
Featured Artists on OUR VOICES Compilations:

1.TAB ft Smoke www.myspace.com/tab2012
2. Anthony Antoine www.antonyantoine.com
3.Tori Fixx www.torifixx.com
4. Patrik-Ian Polk ft Heather B & Maia Campbell www.noahsarc.net
5.Ty Villain from The CLOSET www.thecloset.tv
6. Jazzmyn ernestjd@comcast.net
7. Basil Hennely www.basilhennely.com
8. Michael Mishaw www.michaelmishaw.com
9. Adodi Muse A Gay Negro Ensemble www.adodimuse.com
10. Baron featuring Doughboy www.artistbaron.com
11. Amniotic Flow www.sharonbridgforth.com
12. Blair www.blairpoetry.com
13. Marvin K. White www.marvinkwhite.com
14.Tim'm T. West www.reddirt.biz
15. John Edmonds jedmondsgospel@hotmail.com
16. Men of Rainbow www.menofrainbow.com
17.Trudog www.trudogrecords.com
18. Debreca: www.myspace.com/debreca
19. Billy Porter: www.billyporter.com
20. Sharon Bridgforth: www.sharonbridgforth.com
21. Phylle: www.myspace.com/phylle
22. Mz Jonz: www.myspace.com/shayvonna
23. DeeLa'Mour: www.deelamor.com
24. Joti: www.jotimusic.com
25. Carl Bean: www.iwasbornthisway.com
26. Diamond Diva-PODS: myspace.com/punkofdasouth
27. DeepDickollective: www.deepdickollective.com
28. Rupaul: www.rupaul.com
29. Dalyrical: www.myspace.com/dalyrical
30. William Scott: http://experiencewilliamscott.com
31. MissMoney: www.missmoney.net
32. Jesse Afrivie: www.cdbaby.com/cd/afriyie
33. Kevin Aviance: www.kevinavianceworld.com
34. Ira Levi: www.iralevi.com
35. Sylvester: www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/Sylvester/Syl_Bio.html

1 Single
Jesse Afriyie

1 CD
William Scott

To see our complete "Rainbow Rhythm Chart Listings" check out our web site: www.brothersunited.com/outreach.htm and scroll down to the OUR VOICES Section. If you're an LGBT Artist, and would like one of your tracks, or full CD reviewed, please forward me your web site, or other contact information,a long with the price of your material so we can make my purchase, and let's do the damn thang! Are you interested in receiving a free compilation featuring Black LGBT artists? Send inquiries to OurVoicesCD@aol.com



RedBone Press; *CALL FOR SUBMISSON*

RedBone Press seeks well-written personal stories by black lesbians on the subject of coming out while married to a man. Looking for journal entries, personal essays, creative autobiographical fiction, poetry or whatever way the words come together to describe your coming out. This book is intended to be a resource for black women coming out of marriage, and for the women who love them.

Some questions to address are: How did you tell him? (The "honey, can we talk" speech?) What language did you use to communicate your secret? Did you know your orientation before you got married or after? Why didn't you keep it to yourself? Were there any fears of violence? Did it delay your coming out? What is the present state of your relationship with him? Do you have any regrets? Do your kids know? How do you manage co-parenting with your ex-husband? If you left your husband and are not out, how do you co-parent? Was there any collateral damage? How did you find new support systems while finding yourself?

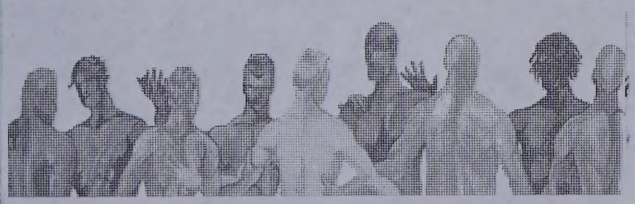
We are also looking for stories from women who are partnered with formerly married women, addressing their point of view surrounding these issues. Please send submission, double-spaced and typed (no more than 35 pages) along with a SASE to the address below. E-mail submissions welcome; send files attached as a Word or an rtf document, along with complete contact information (snail and e-mail addresses). RedBone Press , P.O. Box 15571, Washington, DC 20003, redbonepress@yahoo.com

Submissions will not be returned, so do not send your only copy. Deadline for submission is Nov. 3, 2006.

play some games.
stay with new friends.
walk in the woods. dance the night away.
talk amongst ourselves. create a work of art.
Watch a show. kick back. Relax. enjoy time with the guys!
climb the firetower. eat good food.
Wear your favorite pajamas.
you will be here. shine like the star you are.

Dick Dialogues

A Gay & Bisexual Men's Weekend *5th Year!*



Natchez Trace State Park (TN)

October 20-22

Registration Fee: $170. Make check or money order payable to SMC Men's Weekend. Mail Registration Card and Payment to SMC Men's Weekend, P.O. Box 331908, Nashville, TN 37203-7518
Deadline for Registration and/or Cancellation is Friday, October 13.
50% Refund on or prior to October 13. No refund after October 13.
www.dickdialogues.org / info@dickdialogues.org / 615 242-2654

Winter Retreat # 10: *"A Family Reunion"*

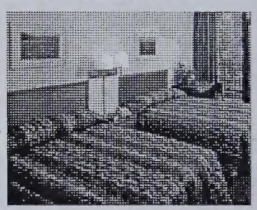
Thursday, November 30th - Sunday, December 3rd, 2006

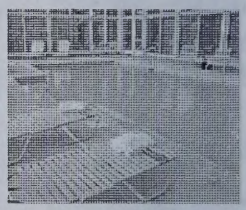
Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center, Burns TN

Brothers United Network, Inc., PO Box # 68335, Nashville, TN 37206
Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Office: 800 845-4266 x 269 / Cell: 615 974-2832
E-mail: brosunited@aol.com / www.brothersunited.com/retreat.htm

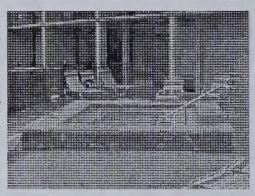
The atmosphere is very relaxed and gives participants a chance to explore issues of identity, spirituality, and sexuality. It is facilitated in a non-threatening and culturally sensitive forum. At times it can be entertaining, provocative and emotional. Although the majority of participants live in the State of Tennessee, others have traveled from Chicago, Texas, Virginia, Michigan, Washington D.C., Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Mississippi to join us. This year our official Lesbian group, Sisters United, will be joining us for the first time in history. This will definitely be one "Family Reunion" that you don't want to miss! Montgomery Bell is about 50 miles from Nashville, 161 miles from Chattanooga, 186 miles from the Memphis & West TN areas, and 218 miles from Knoxville.

Frequently Asked Questions:





What is provided? The accommodations are Double Bed hotel style lodging, with TV, window and bathroom. Six (6) buffet style meals, commemorative item, all work & playshops, activities, entertainment, in-door pool out-door hot tub & exercise facility.



How much does it cost? Early Bird Special: $185 for returning guests, $195 for others. $225 for all after November 1. **If you can't make it for the entire event, we are also offering a special one day rate of $58 including lodging, lunch & dinner.**

What types of payments are accepted? Cashiers Checks, Money Orders, Internet payments through PAYPAL (send to: bronetwktn@aol.com) and NEW this year, **All major Credit Cards**!. (please call for details).

Things to bring: A calm, friendly & peaceful spirit! Extra spending money to support any one of our showcase artists or authors that will be selling their merchandise. Swimming trunks & workout clothes; ear plugs if you are a light sleeper; any special dietary needs or medications; hiking/walking gear if you are into the outdoors; board games for those late night evening hours of play; and a camera or digital camera/recorder for photos & special moments.

Things to leave at home: All family, work or baby-daddy/momma related drama, all illegal drugs or paraphernalia, and any intended plans on turning the weekend into your personal sex fest. We're not saying folks can't, won't, and don't hook up; we're just making sure that isn't the main reason that anyone may want to attend. :-)

Brothers United Network, Inc is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization that has provided education, affirmation & pride to Tennessee's Black LGBT Community since 1996

The BASU SOURCE

The Official Newsletter of Brothers & Sisters United Nashville & the BU Network Chapters
WARNING: Contains adult & LGBT themes, language & images [Volume 10, Issue 59]

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007

In This Issue:

Noah's Arc Actor, Rodney Chester & 92-Q Personality, Princess Ivory join in the "REVOLUTION" of Nashville's Black Pride Celebration

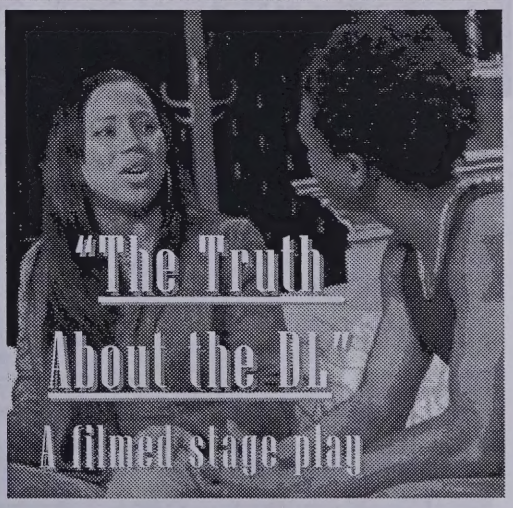
* * * * *

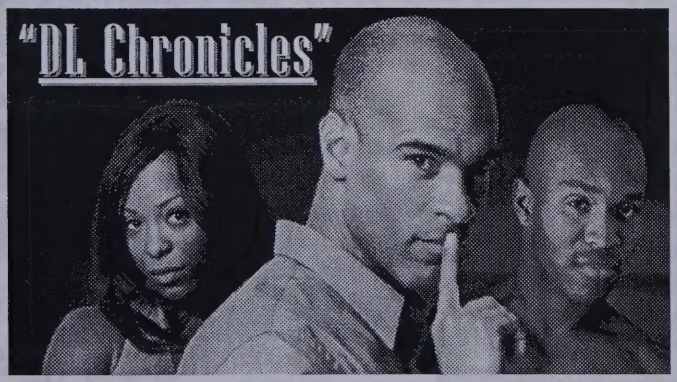
The BASU Winter Retreat Returns

* * * * *

Great gifts for the holidays!

Annual Black PrideFilm Fest screens hot new films!

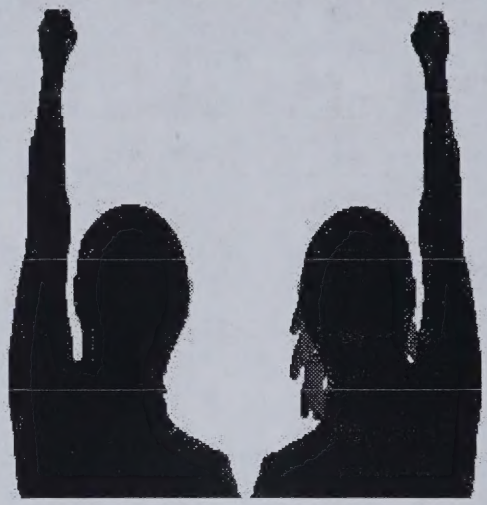




NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE # 5

Opening Reception, Book signing, Spoken Word event, Workshops, Couples Recognition, Free & Confidential HIV & STD testing, Parties, Live Music & Entertainment, Town Hall Meeting, Benefit Party, and Black LGBT Film & Cultural Fest!

Revolution



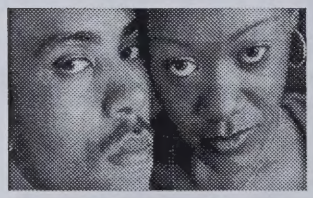
Celebrity Guests include:

Rodney Chester
("Alex" from the LOGO hit series Noah's Arc)

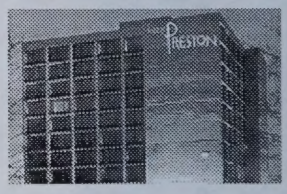
Midday Radio Personality **Princess Ivori**
(Nashville's Big Station, 92 Q)

Friday October 26th - Sunday 28th, 2007

E-mail: NashBlackPride@aol.com *MySpace*: www.myspace.com/nashvilleblackpride



Web site: www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm



Host Hotel: HOTEL PRESTON, 733 Briley Parkway, 37217

Brothers United Network, Inc is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization that has provided education, affirmation & pride to Tennessee's Black LGBT Community since 1996. Proud Member, International Federation of Black Prides Organization
Nashville Black Pride, Post Office Box # 68335, Nashville, TN 37206

OUT & ABOUT NEWSPAPER

92.1 Queer Talk

CLIK CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

inside Out Nashville

OUT & ABOUT TODAY NewsChannel5

FREEDOM PRESS

Brothers United Network, Inc.

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

ifbp

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

NBJC

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GREGMCNEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

NASHVILLE CARES

Brothers United Nashville

Sisters United Nashville

OUTLOUD! BOOKS • MUSIC • VIDEOS • GIFTS

hotel PRESTON

nashville pride

Gay-Straight Alliance at TSU Tennessee State University

Gay-Straight Alliance at Fisk University

LAVENDERPOP

BLU BAR AND NIGHTCLUB

NAPWA National Association of People with AIDS (US)

here! Gay Television. No Apologies.

OEII

GILEAD

nashville in harmony a city chorus for GLBT people & friends

GMAD

WILD OATS MARKETPLACE

TUGSON PRESS

The 5th Wick

Planned Parenthood Middle and East Tennessee

THE GAY AND LESBIAN

KAZANA Scholarship Fund

TN Transgender Political Coalition

Big Girlz Inc.

MyHIVLife.com

out central

STUDVILLE

RX Chicago "Making Chicago the healthiest city in the U.S."
Chicago Department of Public Health
STD/HIV/AIDS Division & Office of LGBT Health

Delta Lambda Beta Sorority

Beta Omicron Iota Fraternity

Gibson

Belcourt Theatre

The BASU SOURCE

This newsletter is published to keep the African American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered community in Nashville connected to the greater Black LGBT world. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by Brothers United, Young Brothers United, Sisters United, the BU Network Chapters, Nashville Black Pride, or Nashville CARES. Names & photos of persons appearing in any of THE BASU SOURCE issues are no indicationof sexual orientation or health status.

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Nashville TN 37207
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Fax: (615) 259-4849
Out of town dial the HEARTLine:
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E-mail: BrosUnited@aol.com
BU web-site: www.brothersunited.com
Agency web-site: www.nashvillecares.org

The Subscription rate for
Nashville/MiddleTN area is free.
All others make $10 check/money order out to "Nashville CARES-BU" send to address above.
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ALL CORRESPONDENCES ARE STRICTLY PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Participants do not have to know, disclose, or discuss their HIV status, or be considered "out" with their sexuality to volunteer or attend events.

Brothers United Network, Inc. Celebrating 10 Years of providing education, empowerment, pride & affirmation.
The BU Network is autonomous from, yet complementary to, the Nashville CARES BU/YBU programs in that all of the events & activities provide in-depth, longer term life skills required for success outside of, but essential to , HIV prevention, outreach and education. Mr. Jenkins is the primary contact for all programs.

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David M. Barton Photography ©

BASU Health & Wellness Corner

Drug use called No. 1 AIDS risk for Black and Hispanic Men www.miamiherald.com/884/story/187623.html

Hispanic and black men are more likely to contract HIV through drug use, the biggest factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS

BY FRED TASKER ftasker@MiamiHerald.com

Drug use and the resulting risky behavior are the biggest factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States, and Hispanic and black men are more likely to be infected this way than others, an AIDS expert told a national AIDS conference in Miami Beach on Monday. "Drugs, whether you inject them, inhale them or take them orally, alter your judgment and put you at risk for HIV," Dr. Rhonda Hagler, medical director of Proceed Inc., an Elizabeth, N.J., AIDS clinic, told the 2007 National Conference on Latinos and AIDS, meeting here through today.

Contracting HIV through injected drug use is particularly prevalent in the Hispanic and black communities, because Hispanic and black men are nearly three times as likely as white non-Hispanic men and nearly twice as likely as Asians to contract HIV through shared needles, according to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey in 2004. Also, Hispanic teens are using drugs -- from cocaine to heroin -- at somewhat higher rates than blacks or white non-Hispanics. Hispanic and black women, on the other hand, were less likely to contract HIV through drug use than white non-Hispanic and Asian women. A first step in dealing with the situation, Hagler said, is to put aside prejudices against drug abusers. "It's not a moral issue," she said. 'If you're addicted, you can't stop. Nancy Reagan's `Just say no' doesn't work. So much of HIV treatment [of drug addicts] is controlled by the opinion of the judge or the social workers. We need to seek expert research to get the scientific facts."

An additional hardship for Hispanics, another speaker said, is that they tend to be tested later for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. "My patients with HIV have a higher viral load because they've been infected for a long time, and don't have the resources to see a doctor," said Dr. Jose Moreno, professor of clinical medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine, in an interview last week. ``Some of them may be illegal, and they're afraid of being deported." In fact, 43 percent of Hispanics were diagnosed with HIV late in their illness -- meaning the HIV progressed to AIDS within a year of the HIV diagnosis -- compared with 37 percent of non-Hispanic whites, according to a 2006 report by the CDC. Only 45 percent of Hispanics have ever been tested for HIV, compared with 54 percent of non-Hispanic whites, the study said.

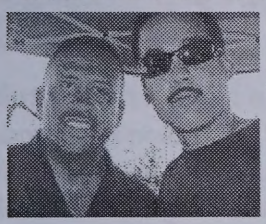
"In my opinion, people who are drug-dependent and HIV positive face discouraging additional hurdles", Hagler told the conference, including: higher suicide rates, quicker progression from HIV to AIDS, complicated and unexpected interactions between legal drugs and illegal ones. Alcohol intensifies the toxicity of cocaine, she said. Ritonavir [an HIV drug] increases the potency of ecstasy and heroin. Reluctance of some doctors to give medicine for pain when needed for fear of increasing drug dependence. ``A drug abuser gets cancer, and the doctor will only give him Tylenol because he doesn't want to boost the addiction." Also at the conference, actress Rosie Perez, an AIDS activist for 20 years, urged unity in the fight. "We get tired and frustrated from the apathy there is on this subject," she said. ``We must re-commit every morning. We're all brothers and sisters in this fight."

From Where I Sit

by Dwayne Jenkins, Editor

There is a new Black Gay Male Character on cable TV. The 20 year old actors name is Paul James, and he plays "Calvin", on the show entitle GREEK on the ABC Family channel. He's the ONLY recurring Black Male on the series and his character is a wealthy legacy pledge that is a jock that also happens to be Gay. Even though the series is based on non-Black Greek Letter organizations, and some of the things that they portray is way out of most people of color Greek traditions, it's still great to see that they included his character in the show. I started watching it about 3 weeks into the series and honestly feel that Calvin's character is the best! It is well developed and is the only one that has depth. His scenes seem to move beyond drinking, hooking up with random folks for sex, or watching sorority girls be catty to one another. Since the show came on during one of my other favorite shows, I tapped them and watched them later in the week. Before the last show of the season aired, I found myself fast forwarding my VCR past the other parts of the show and stopping when he came on. If you decide to check it out in reruns or when it comes back on next season just know that the intended demographic is teens and young adults. It's a shame that we have to hunt for quality characters and story lines that are true to our lives, but that's how it goes sometimes.

On September 20th there was a nationwide Protest & Rally for a group of young men called the Jena 6. On this day thousands of people of all races, sexual orientations and religions joined together to either march in Jena Louisiana, held rally's in their cities, and wore the color black to stand as one and united against what many feel is an injustice in the court system in area of the world. Since many of you received my eSOURCE e-mail updates, and the story about the case is finally something that is being talked about on an international scale, I won't waste your time to try and summarize what it's about. I did want to send shout outs to my fellow employees at CARES, 92 Q, and other organizations and churches in Nashville that really came together in whatever way they could. I also wanted to send some love to radio personality Michael Baisden for stepping up in such a big way. I had heard about the story, saw images on You Tube and received e-mails months ago, but to me it really grew wings and took flight once he got the news and covered it on his nationally syndicated show. It was great to see people from all walks of life come together on an issue, especially one that included persons of color. The image that you see is one of Michael with rapper Jasiri X who wrote one of the first songs about the situation entitled "Free the Jena 6". If you haven't heard it on 92 Q, check it out on myspace.com/jasirix. I've chatted with the Jasiri X via e-mail, and he's a nice guy who simply wanted to show his support the best way he could. More about the support of Jena 6 on page 10.



Another shout out goes to local interior designer Josh "Sparkle" Johnson for making it on this season's HGTV Design Star Show. He was given the nickname Sparkle Josh because another one of the people he was competing against had the same first name. I don't know him personally, but have met him before and remember how crazy he was. Josh is a 33 year old Gay Male from Hendersonville whose dream project is designing Beyonce's closet, and states that if his life were a TV sitcom, it would be "Moesha". You go Boi! Even though you didn't win your own show, congrats on making it to the big screen in a big and fabulous gay way.

As the year comes to a close, many of us try to take the time to reflect of the previous years accomplishments, as well as begin to prepare for the new year ahead. Since we all should have things that we would like to change and or improve on, I wanted to open up the lines of communication with our readers in an effort to continue to provide each of you and the LGBT community with the best material, events and products that we can. Before the end of the year, we will be mailing out our annual BASU Needs Assessment Survey. We will also try to find a way to do a similar survey on-line to include those individuals that prefer to communicate on the Internet. It is our hope that your honest responses will help guide us in the right direction as far as our outreach and education efforts go. Lastly, I'd like to wish everyone a happy, safe, debt & stress free holiday season! It doesn't take a lot of money or expensive gifts or feasts to show people you love them. Take if from one of the cheapest folks I know...me! I love and care for folks and they don't get a damn thang' but a face to face visit, call, hug, or smile and it's just as worth while.

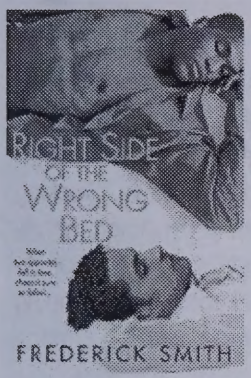
Hello Everyone! In this issue, I decided to write a poem instead of an article and hope you can relate to it.

DaShawn Usher, Young Brothers United Peer Coordinator at Nashville CARES
615-259-4866 Ext 221 / dusher@nashvillecares.org / www.myspace.com/ybucares

Death of a friend

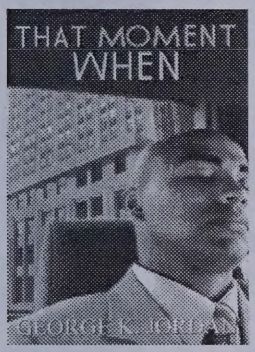
It took me a while to build up enough courage and just be through with you
It was an epiphany like no other
Not like the last ones that told me to give up on you
Still I extended an open hand
And never gave up hope
Told myself "I won't..."
I kept the life support system on for so long
Figuring you come out of your coma, which would explain you being missing in action
Still never got a reaction
That had to be the reason why my phone stopped ringing
That had to be the reason why I no longer was a priority
It had to be the reason why I could not contact you
Because you're not conscious to pick up your phone
No mentality at all, which would give you the decency...
That is what I kept telling myself
Believed it too for six years
Believed it from the tears
Believed it from the times we shared
Believed it from our history
Now it is all a mystery
How can this happen?
Why did this have to happen to us?
Is this what happens when two people stop giving a fuck?
Death of a friend
It is always hard to let go
Particularly when I should have let you plunge a long time ago
However, I figured that we could make it to the end
It was fun while it lasted
But since nothing is for ever
Nothing last forever
I should have NEVER expected this friendship to last
This is what happens when people are caught up in the past
Lingering on to all the old times, and memories
And the only thing that gets lost is you and me
Never say never
Damn, it was fucked up that it had to end like this
Never thought it would happen, but damn
How much could I take?
Don't even know the half of what I did for your sake
That is when it transpired and your time expired
And I realized the real from the fake
Not saying that you was not legitimate
But, actions speak louder then words
And your actions say you got your just deserved
Death of a friend
We was suppose to always be tight
I honestly believed that nothing could come between us
I never realized that that "nothing" was you

HOT OFF THE PRESS



Book Title: **Right Side of the Wrong Bed** Author: **FREDERICK SMITH**
Publisher: Kensington Books (ISBN: 0-7582-1926-1) Price: $15
Advanced Reviews: "Delivering on the promise of its sexy title, Right Side of the Wrong Bed is funny, touching, and intoxicating". – Maurice Jamal, writer and director of Dirty Laundry and The Ski Trip "...the men are fabulous and the wit is as sharp as the latest pair of trendy jeans. – Fiona Zedde, author, Bliss and Every Dark Desire. www.fredericksmith.net

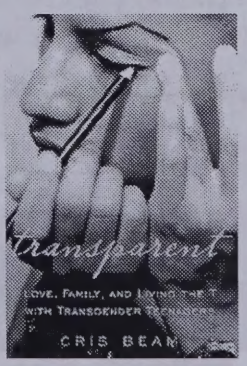
Book Title: **Choice** Author: **Skyy**
Publisher: Crossing Publishing ISBN #:978-0-9714489-9-5
Set on the campus of Freedom University, a historically black college in Memphis, TN, the lives and choices of four women are intertwined. Skyy is a 25-year-old writer with big dreams ahead of her. Choices is her first novel and hopes her writing will shed a positive light on the black lesbian community. www.myspace.com/skyybooks / skyy@simplyskyy.com



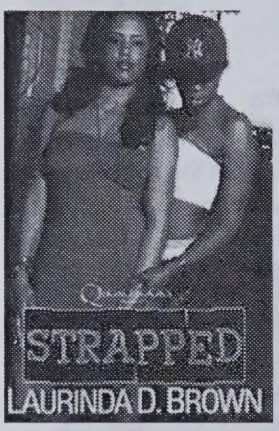
Book Title: **That Momen When** Author: **George K. Jordan**
Publisher: Urban Soul/Kensington Price: $6.99
Set in Atlanta, a local hustler named Damon Harvy is frustrated with his life and makes plans to rob a bank. This book explores choices we all think are miniscule, but can impact a lifetime. Through Damon, and the the people he encounters, we learn how a moment really can change everything. The author is also the editor in chief of BLEU, the latest LGBT fashion & entertainment magazine. www.thebleumag.com

Music With A Twist is the first major record label dedicated to identifying and developing lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) artists along with creating innovative music compilations with a distinctly gay "twist". A joint venture between Sony Music Label Group/Columbia Records and Logo network founder Matt Farber's Wilderness Media & Entertainment, TWIST is a home for gay artists of all genres to experience mainstream success without having to compromise any part of their identity. To listen to snippets check out the following links: www.myspace.com/mwatrevolutions or www.amazon.com

Book Title: **Flirting** Author: **TIM'M T. WEST**
Publisher: (Red Dirt Publishing/Lulu) 978-0-9748-1433-9 Price: $15
Flirting is a poignant and poetic memoir in six breaths. While rooted in his experiences as black, gay-identified poet, emcee, activist, and educator, Flirting is an invitation to that optimistic, joyful space where, hope springs eternal. An emcee and Spoken Word artist he is regarded as a poet who comfortably navigates language that respects the formal conventions of his training, while honoring rhythm and lexicon of a Hip Hop generation. www.reddirt.biz



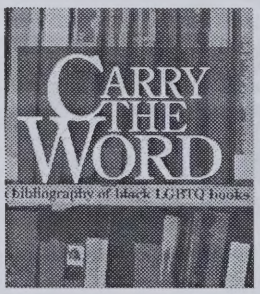
Book Title: **Transparent** Author: **Cris Beam** Price $25
In this gripping, illuminating and deeply moving portrait of transgender teens in Los Angeles, the smallest incidents reverberate sharply. Their group interactions—including fights, friendships and daily struggles to survive—form the center of the book. The author morphs from parent to therapist, chum, cheerleader and legal adviser, she seamlessly blends memoir, reportage and advocacy. The result is a vivid and fiercely empathetic narrative that juxtaposes dead-on portraits of these young women with clearly articulated fury at a culture that's not only fearful of anyone who deviates from traditional gender roles but treats minorities and the poor with contempt. - Reed Elsevier Inc.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Book Title: **STRAPPED** Author: **Laurinda D. Brown** Price: $15
Seeking escape from the pain that became her life, Monique Cummings finds refuge the only way she knows how. Like the clothes shoved in the bottom of her duffle bag when she flees her mother's house, she packs away the naiveté of the lovely, pig-tailed young girl she used to be and replaces it with a newfound masculine boldness. Seeking refuge in a lesbian existence, Monique morphs into a street thug with the soul of a woman. Inside the world of Strapped, life is real edgy, unnerving, passionate, and true. Without the ones in your life who care, Strapped could be you. Strapped: it proves that sometimes life just happens. Continuing where the sort story Mon left off in her 2006 best-selling novel, Walk Like A Man, author Laurinda D. Brown again weaves a tale in Strapped that will have pages turning and tongues wagging.

Book Title: **COVENANT** Author: **Rhashid Darden** Price: $16
ADRIAN is on a mission to heal himself from his emotional wounds. Though he is fresh off the "burning sands" of Beta Chi Phi, he suddenly finds himself alone. He sets himself to the task of reconciling with his parents while forging his own path as a newly "out" man on campus - no easy feat when some fraternity brothers still harbor animosity toward him. ISAIAH is struggling to redefine himself. He is a student, basketball player, and boyfriend to a beautiful young lady. But who does he want to be? Isaiah's friendship with Adrian awakens new feelings within him - feelings that are both exciting and terrifying. Over the course of one summer these two men are united as friends - and more. What happens between them is kept secret, even from their closest friends. As they cross each other's paths on the close-knit campus, they both long to finish what they started during that long, humid summer. Still, they made a promise...



Book Title: **Carry The Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books**
Authors: Compiled by **Steven G. Fullwood, Reginald Harris and Lisa C. Moore**
Edited by Steven G. Fullwood and Lisa C. Moore. www.vepress.com / www.redbonepress.com
Price: $10

Carry the Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books is a seminal reference work, featuring over 600 titles by and about black Same-Gender-Loving (SGL) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer-identified (LGBTQ) writers and culture, as well as interviews and articles about black SGL authors. A must-have for booksellers, librarians, academics, community-based organizations, book clubs and readers interested in black LGBTQ books and authors, all proceeds from sales of Carry the Word will benefit Fire & Ink, Inc., supporter and advocate for SGL writers of African descent. Carry the Word is co-published with Vintage Entity Press.

CODE RED
TORI FIXX

Code Red marks the sixth CD installment in the Tori Fixx musical series and is his most sold work of all. Tori's recent appearances on Paula Zahn/CNN and the Tyra Banks Show makes Code Red the "right release at the right time". Tori's funky beats, tight production and keen sense as a DJ helped him to infuse elements into his own material www.cdbaby.com/cd/torifixx5 / torifixx.com / www.myspace.com/torifixx

Book Title: **Balancing Act** Authors: **Jonathan Plummer and Karen Hunter**
Price: $23

Description: Bringing promising male model Julian to America, Marque Ashley, the head of a top New York City agency, breaks her own rules about mixing business with pleasure when she gives in to their mutual attraction, a situation that is complicated by Julian`s latent homosexuality. 50,000 first printing.

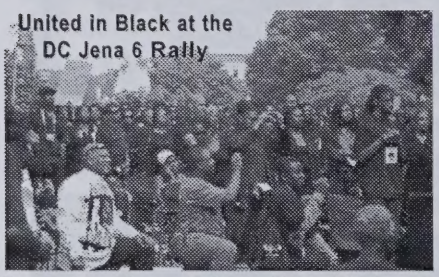
Ishaki BOOKS
presents
GETTING IN 2 MY SHORTS
Steamy, daring, sensuous, erotic, thought-provoking, and downright entertaining! Getting Into My Shorts is the first installment of novellas by Dwayne Carter the best-selling author of The Best Man..
These sexy tales of lust, greed, passion, heartbreak, tragedy, and triumph will take you on an emotionally charged journey that will have you begging for more. The characters vividly and tantalizingly bare their souls and grip you in their sagas until you reach a climax that leaves you totally satisfied.
Priase for Dwayne Carter's Books:
"Great storytelling... I was glued to the pages."
- TRAVIS HUNTER, Author of A FAMILY OF SIN
"...it keeps you on the edge of your seat... you can't put it down until you have finished..."
- JAMES THOMPSON, WABC RADIO, NY
$18.00 USD
Also Available from
Dwayne Carter
the rerelease of
The Best Man

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Stands with Civil Rights Community for the fair treament of the Jena 6

Recognizing the case of the "Jena 6" as a clear sign of injustice impacting the entire civil rights community, HRC President Joe Solmonese took to the podium today (along with members of our staff) to express the support of the Human Rights Campaign for justice and equal treatment of the six black teenagers whose lives are on the line in Jena, La. Here is the text of his prepared remarks:

HRC Pres. & Staff at the Jena 6 Washington DC Rally

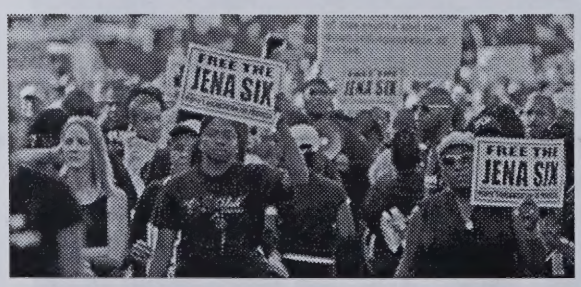
My name is Joe Solmonese and I represent the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organization in the country. Am I am here -- we are all here from the Human Rights Campaign -- because this injustice cannot stand. We are here because we know about bigotry. We know about hate. We know the pain in high school of standing apart. Of being taunted. Of standing up, only too often, to be shut down. I am here -- we are here -- because you have stood with us. Because all of us know that one injustice against any of us is an injustice against all of us. And I am here because I remember. I remember James Byrd. James was a gentle soul, a special soul. Someone who struggled his whole life with challenges, but was filled with love and was deeply loved in Jasper, Texas. But James Byrd -- at 49 -- was savagely beaten, then chained to a pickup truck and literally dragged to his death. He was brutally murdered because he was black.


United in Black at the DC Jena 6 Rally

And then something really profound happened. Remember when George Bush was governor of Texas? Well, Governor Bush had a hate crimes bill on his desk. There was a lot of pressure to sign the bill because of what they did to James Byrd. So, George Bush said he'd sign that bill, but they had to take the gays out. And here's what happened. Stella Byrd, who has just buried her beaten, broken, gentle James said, If some of us are left out, then all of us are. Valuing one life and not valuing another is not right. And the Byrd family said No. They said No. And they walked away.

So, I stand here today with solidarity. I stand here for social justice. I stand here to free those young men. To say this will not stand. It cannot stand. I stand here for the Jena 6. I stand here today for James Byrd. We will not forget. We will never walk away. Thank you very much.

Donna Payne, HRC's associate director of diversity, traveled to Jena, Louisiana on behalf on the Human Rights Campaign to stand with concerned citizens and members of the civil rights community in support of justice in the case of the Jena 6. Donna sent live on the ground updates throughout the day to her blog and an article on why she feels it's important for HRC and the entire GLBT community to stand united with the larger civil rights community against all forms of injustice is posted on www.Advocate.com. You can also go to: http://www.logoonline.com/news/archive.jhtml?contentTypeID=1089&popThis=popVideo(97213)



The real story of the Jena Six is not just about the dramatic showdown between African-American residents and white authority figures in a small, rural Southern town. It is about how in our country, even today, certain members of our society continue to be subjected to blatant prejudice and denied the assurance of fair and equal treatment by our legal and judicial process. The story speaks to the real threat of the powerful to use their influence and narrow, discriminatory view of society to further marginalize those whom they consider to be weaker or "other" than themselves. Those blacks. Those gays. The hope is that if "they" would not make a big deal out of the obvious injustices occurring to them and just accept things the way they are -- and, implicitly, are supposed to be -- then the "problems" will just go away and "normal" life will resume. But we know that injustice of any kind, be it in the form of workplace discrimination, hate crimes, or unequal sentencing, is never something that we can stand by and casually accept.

Finding out your HIV status is as easy as saying "aaah..."

It's free, confidential, 99% accurate and takes a few minutes.
No Blood / No Needles with results back in days!

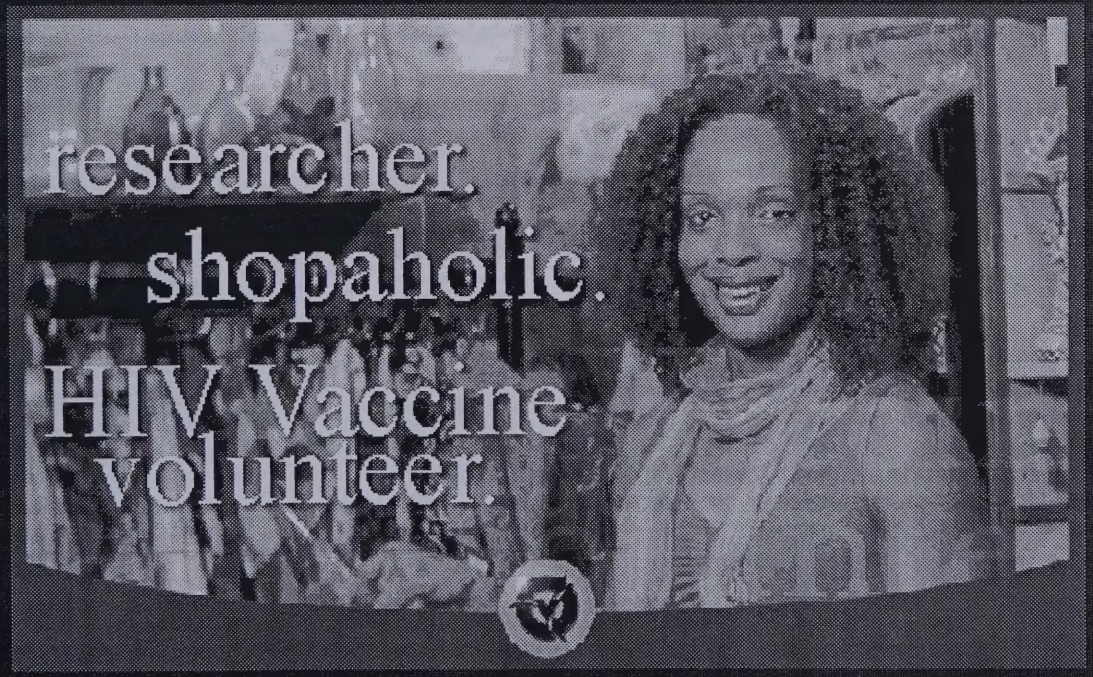
Call Nashville CARES to set up an appointment at 259-4866
and ask for either Dwayne (x 269) or DaShawn (x 221).

Nashville CARES is located off Brick Church Pike at 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. Take I-24/I-65 Trinity Lane exit # 87 and go away from Dickerson Road under the expressway. At the light in front of the EXXON make a right towards the McDonald's on to Brick Church Pike. After you go up a small hill and pass the new Brick Church Middle School on your right, get in your center turning lane when you see the "END 15 Mile" School Sign, and make the next left into the Brick Church Business Park. Follow the hill up to the building with the watch tower and make a left in front of the 501 sign in the grass, and then a quick right into the parking lot and that is Nashville CARES. We strongly suggest that you call to make an appointment rather than just doing a walk-in.

Safer Sex Practices WORK!

Sexually active people 13 years of age and up should get tested for HIV at least once a year! That includes folks that are single, partnered & married!

GET TESTED, PROTECT YOURSELF AND ALWAYS KNOW YOUR STATUS



Uninfected adult volunteers are needed from all backgrounds to participate in a research study. There is no risk of HIV infection from the vaccines, and volunteers must be available locally for 12-18 months and will be compensated for their time. To learn more call (615) 322-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hivvaccineresearch.com

NBJC and HRC Counters Conservative Black Clergy in Ads

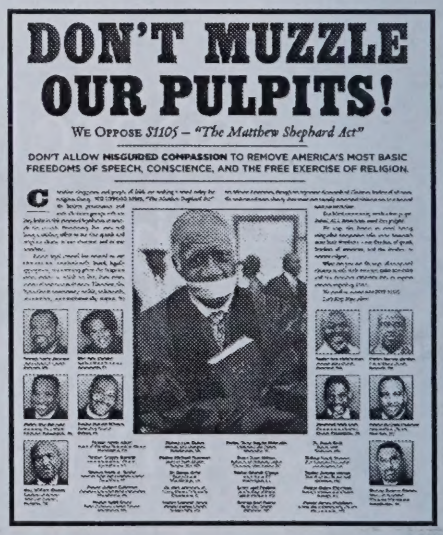
THE TRUTH ABOUT FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION
"Pastors have nothing to fear. The bill clearly protects free speech and does not muzzle any minister."
The bill clearly states, "Nothing in this Act ... shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct protected from legal prohibition by, or any activities protected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the First Amendment to the Constitution." [HR 1592, Sec. 8] It does not make criminal any behavior that is not already against the law.
We support the current hate crimes legislation in Congress because it expands protections for our fellow clergy members, the African-American community and even more Americans.
Bishop Carlton Pearson
Founder, International Association of World Health and Harmony
Founder and Senior Pastor, New Dimensions Worship Center
Tulsa, Okla.

We stand united with a diverse group of faith leaders urging the Senate to pass the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

The anti-LGBT industry has been busy putting ads in papers urging people and African Americans in particular, to support a veto of the hate crimes bill. The ads are misleading and rely on fear to make their erroneous and wrong-headed points.

NBJC, HRC and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights placed ads in the same papers to counteract the deliberate misinformation perpetrated by Bishop Harry Jackson and the High Impact Leaders Coalition.

We know that truth, justice and the momentum of a spiritually grounded movement are on our side. We still reach out the hand of fellowship to our opponents who continue to bear false witness against LGBT people on a consistent basis. We encourage you to step into your truth and join us as we march to a justice drumbeat, fighting homophobia, racism, and sexism.


DON'T MUZZLE OUR PULPITS!
We Oppose S1105 – "The Matthew Shepard Act"
DON'T ALLOW MISGUIDED COMPASSION TO REMOVE AMERICA'S MOST BASIC FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, CONSCIENCE, AND THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION.

NBJC endorses safe school legislation that allow LGBT people to become a protected class against harassment & discrimination.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
NBJC National Black Justice Coalition
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

NBJC sponsors nationwide Black Church Town Halls to publicly discuss homosexuality and the Black church the goal to educate the black community on its theological understanding on homosexuality. www.nbjc.org / www.hrc.org

Nashville Black Pride Weekend Schedule at a Glance

Nashville Black Pride # 5: "Revolution!"- October 26th-28th, 2007

Host Hotel: HOTEL PRESTON, 733 Briley Parkway, 37217

***** Please note there are only (3) official & legal "Black Pride" Parties *****

FRIDAY: OCTOBER 26TH

10 AM - 1 PM; Radio Shout out: Listen to Princess Ivori on 92 Q during "Girlfriends House" for a special segment about Nashville Black Pride sometime between 10 AM- 1 PM

8 PM; Opening Reception: FREE at HOTEL PRESTON - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217 Hermitage & Donelson rooms (main level). Featuring Celebrity Guests Rodney Chester, from Noah's Arc & Princess Ivori, from Nashville's Big Station, 92 Q, Nashville in Harmony Choir & Couple Recognition

10 PM - 1 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 1*: Hotel Preston: Lynchburg & Cumberland rooms (main level). Cost $10, SMOKE FREE Environment: 18 to enter, 21 to drink! Proper ID required. All reception attendees get in for just $5!!! Special Guest DJ & Performances

10 PM - 2 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 2*: Club BLU: $10 before Midnight, $15 after. 21 enter & drink! Proper ID required. BLU Bar & Night Club, 1709 Church Street, 37203 Music by DJ Robbie Rob from Philly.

SATURDAY: OCTOBER 27TH

All afternoon events from 11am-7pm are FREE at the Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Vendor Marketplace: Downstairs lobby & Brentwood room. Come & meet Celebrity Guests Rodney Chester before between 1-3 PM before he leaves town.

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM; Work & Play:1."No Mo Shame": Pink Slip Lounge, main level. Facilitated by Ricc Rollins

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM; National Black Justice Coalition Town Hall Meeting: Pink Slip Lounge. Facilitated by Alexander Robinson

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM; Literary Café: Authur & Spoken Word Showcase: Pink Slip Lounge (see other side of flyer & above)

5:30 - 7:00 PM; Mini Film Presentation: Brentwood room

9 PM - 2 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 3*: Gibson Showcase: The Official Benefit & Fundraiser at 161 Opry Mills Drive at Opry Mills Mall, $15 before Midnight $20 afterwards / SMOKE FREE Environment: 18 to enter & 21 to drink! Proper ID required. Vendor Marketplace, performances by Seduction-Ms TN Diamond Diva 2007-08, Too Deep, Nigel LaStat & more!

SUNDAY: OCTOBER 28TH

12:30 PM - 9 PM; Film & Cultural Fest: Historic Belcourt Theatre, 2102 Belcourt Avenue, 37217 (see film images above)

MONDAY: OCTOBER 29TH

6:30 PM Debriefing Meeting: at Nashville CARES: 501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207. All are welcome!

full schedule breakdown on page 14-15

5th Annual Nashville Black Pride Celebration Full Schedule

***** Please note there are only (3) official & legal "Black Pride" Parties *****

FRIDAY: October 26th

10 AM - 1 PM; Radio Shout out: Listen to Princess Ivori on 92 Q during "Girlfriends House" for a special segment about Nashville Black Pride sometime between 10 AM- 1 PM

8 PM; Opening Reception: FREE at HOTEL PRESTON - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217 Hermitage & Donelson rooms (main level). Includes annual Couples recognition and featuring Celebrity Guests:

1. Rodney Chester, from Noah's Arc
2. Princess Ivori, from Nashville's Big Station, 92 Q
3. Special performance of "Lift Every Voice & Sing" by Nashville in Harmony Choir

10 PM - 1 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 1: Hotel Preston: Lynchburg & Cumberland rooms (main level). Cost $10, SMOKE FREE Environment: 18 to enter, 21 to drink! Proper ID required. All reception attendees get in for just $5!!! Special Guest DJ & Performances

10 PM - 2 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 2: Club BLU: $10 before Midnight, $15 after. 21 enter & drink! Proper ID required. BLU Bar & Night Club, 1709 Church Street, 37203. Music by DJ Robbie Rob from Philadelphia, PA

SATURDAY: October 27th

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM:Vendor Marketplace: FREE at Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217. Downstairs lobby & Brentwood room.

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM; Work & Play: FREE at Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217. "No Mo Shame" meets participants where they are and strengthens self-efficacy to achieve desired healthier behaviors through skills building activities that equip participants for success and supports spiritual growth. Facilitated by Pastor Ricc Rollins from Tampa, FL.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM; National Black Justice Coalition Town Hall Meeting: FREE at Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217. Pink Slip Lounge, main level. Facilitated by H. Facilitated by Alexander Robinson. Executive Director & CEO of NBJC. .

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM; Literary Café: Authur & Spoken Word Showcase: FREE at Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway, 37217. Location: Pink Slip Lounge, main level.

1. Author, recording artist & Spoken Word Artist; Tim'M T. West ("Flirt", "Red Dirt Revival")
2. Author Skyy ("CHOICE")
3. Author Leo Shelton ("RHYTHMS - Poetry and Muse")
4. Author & Spoken Word Artist; Melissa Gordon ("Disposable Heroes")
5. Author & Spoken Word Artist; Jair, The Literary Masturbator ("Sacred Sensual Secrets", "Touch: Poems and Other Writings of Love, Erotica, and Sensuality")
6. Author & Spoken Word Artist; Adande
7. Author Dwayne Carter ("Getting In 2 My Shorts", "The Best Man")
8. D. Felcia Walker, Author of "From Better to Worse; A Memoir of Unconditional Love".

5:30 - 7:00 PM; Mini Film Presentation: Free in the Brentwood Room

1. Triple Minority, A short film by Amber Sharp
2. DL Chronicles; Episode: "BOO"

continued on page 15

SATURDAY, October 27 continued

NOTE: Our annual fundrasier party is still at the Gibson Showcase! <u>This is the only official Black Pride Party</u>
We depend on this one weekend and single benefit function to help continue to provide the services to the Black LGBT community, and hope that you will financially support us by joining us at Opry Mills Mall. Each year is bigger & better!

<u>9 PM - 2 AM; Official Black Pride Party # 3: Gibson Showcase":</u> The Official Benefit/Fundraiser at 161 Opry Mills Drive in Opry Mills Mall, $15 before Midnight $20 afterwards / SMOKE FREE Environment: 18 to enter & 21 to drink! Proper ID required. Special performance by 2007-8 Mr. Esquire; _____, Nigel LeStat, SEDUCTION; Ms. TN Diamond Diva 2007-8, and local female recording artist "Too Deep".

SUNDAY: October 28th

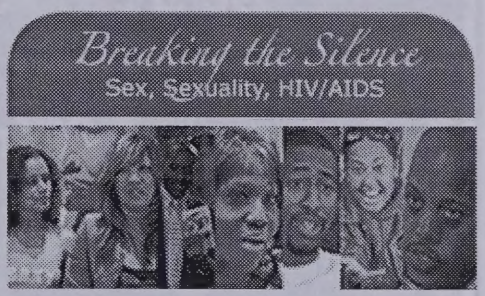
<u>12:30 PM - 9 PM: Film & Cultural Fest at the Historic Belcourt Theatre</u>, 2102 Belcourt Avenue, Nashville 37217 (off 21st Avenue going towards Green Hills Mall, one block from the Wedgwood / Blakemore intersection). Cost is $8 (one price pays for all the movies you can watch!)

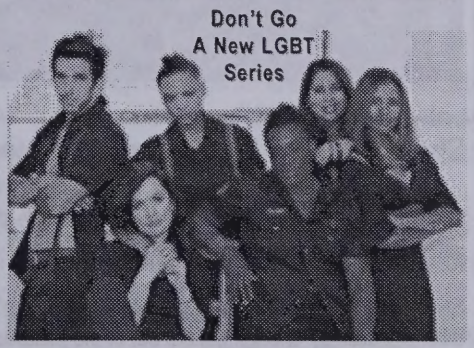
CULTURAL EVENTS
1. A special performance from "Womyn with Wings" - A Chorepoem

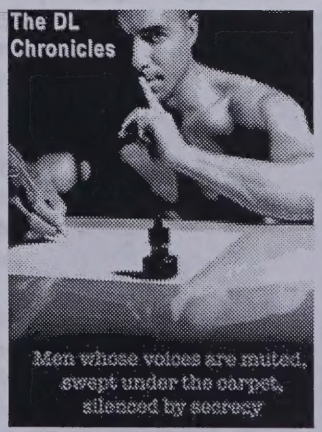
DOCUMENTARIES
1. CLIK Elite Awards
2. Standing N Truth: Breaking the Silence- Sex, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in the Black Community. Extended Trailor

SHORTS
1. The DL Chronicles
   A."Boo"
   B."Mark"
2. Triple Minority

FEATURE FILMS
1. "Don't Go"
2. "The Truth About the DL"
3. "Kevin's Room 1"
4. "Kevin's Room 2"-Trust
5. "Kevin's Room 3"-Together





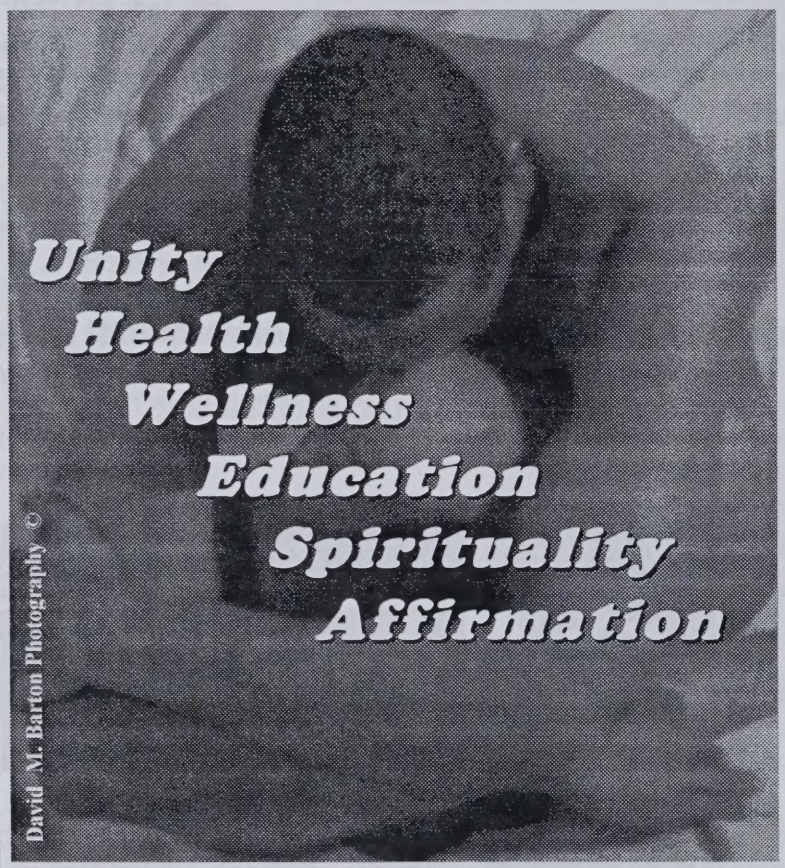


Monday: October 29th

<u>6:30 PM Debriefing Meeting: at Nashville CARES</u>:
501 Brick Church Park Drive, 37207.
All are welcome.

The BASU SOURCE

Nashville & Middle TN Residents *FREE*



Subscribe Today

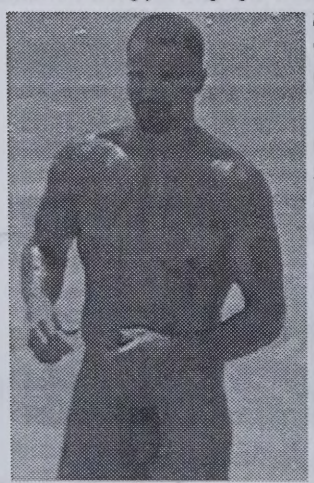
With a current readership of over 750 households in Tennessee and across the country, you will not find a better deal anywhere! Let us be your local *source* of info into our ever changing Black LGBT/Same Gender Loving world.

Local readers may subscribe by phone or e-mail for free. Non Nashville/Middle TN Residents make your $10 check or money order out to "Nashville CARES - BU" and send to Attn: Dwayne Jenkins, Nashville CARES, 501 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville TN 37207. Please do not mail cash.

Shemar Moore Speaks about recent Nude Photos www.theinsideronline.com/news/2007/07/11029/

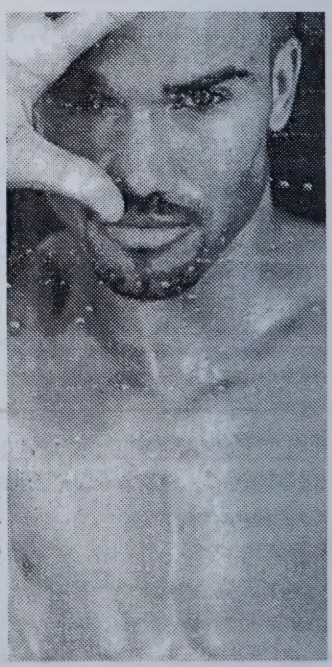
"THE INSIDER": The National Enquirer has nude photos of you, claiming they were taken on a gay beach. Do you have a comment?

SHEMAR MOORE: *People say I got caught. I didn't get caught. I went on vacation with two girlfriends of mine, who interestingly enough got cut out of the pictures. We weren't allowed to skinny dip at the hotel pool, so we found out there was a nude beach just down the street that as far as I knew was a unisex beach, but the tabloids want to make it a gay beach. We had a wonderful afternoon.*

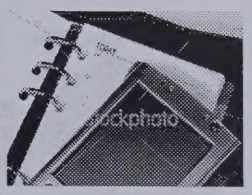


I have skinny dipped since I was a teenager. I skinny dip in my house. Will I go to another beach and skinny dip again? Were there gay people on the beach? I don't know. I don't care. Were there families on the beach? Yeah. Did I get caught? I didn't get caught. I voluntarily went on vacation with some lady friends of mine and had a good time.

People find it interesting to make me gay. I am not gay. I don't have a problem with gay people. My godfather was gay and died of AIDS. I am not a guy who discriminates. I know what I am and what I am not. I am a guy who went on vacation with two beautiful girls. I am single, I am not married with kids, and I decided to go skinny dipping. I am just glad the water was warm!



Calender of Events



Listed below are some of the local Nashville and other events that we thought that our readers would like to know about. If you need further information, please feel free to contact us directly from the list provided on the contents page. Check out *www.brothersunited.com/events.htm* for more dates.

October

10/4-6: **International Black Film Festival**: Belcourt Theater, Nashville
10/6: **Nashville AIDS Walk**: A benefit for Nashville CARES:
10/11: **National Coming OUT Day**
NCOD Coming out to Help Food Drive: 6-8 PM at Lipstick. No cover!
10/13: **4th Annual Family Day in the Park** (also known as "Come Together Day") sponsored by Nashville's Big Station, 92 Q. 11AM-4PM. For more info: www.92qnashville.com
11th Annual Mr. Esquire Pageant-for Male Impersonators: Sponsored by MAC Productions. Contact 615 498-1956 or e-mail them at macproductionspageant@yahoo.com
International Drag King Extravaganza, Austin TX
10/25: **Nashville GLBT Business & Career Expo**: Sponsored by the Nashville GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Time 5 PM- 10 PM at the City Hall Entertainment Venue in the Gulch. For more information contact 615 481-9233 or visit www.nashvilleglbtchamber.org
10/26-29: **Nashville Black Pride # 5- REVOLUTION!**: See listing on pages 13-15 or check out www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm or www.myspace.com/nashvilleblackpride for details, events and sponsors.

November

11/8-11:**Falltacular Retreat: Fire in the Smokies**: The retreat will be held on a beautiful site over looking The Great Smoky Mountains. We will be just minutes away from all the attractions in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area of Tennesee. Some of the highlights of the weekend include: Nightly Mixers, Spoken Word Sessions, Jazz Brunch, Bon Fire, Pool Party, $275 includes lodging for 3 nights, in-house entertainment and parties, 6 meals and even covers the cost of cocktails! Space is limited so contact: www.falltacular2006.com
11/10: **ARTRAGEOUS 20 "OZ"**: A benefit for Nashville CARES. The Gallery Tour is from 6-10 PM, and the party is from 10 PM- Midnight. For tickets and other info contact: www.artrageous.org
11/15: **Adoption Law & Options Seminar** sponsored by the Brooks Fund Speakers Series. Featuring Robert D. Tuke. 120 Powell Ave next to Home Depot at 100 Oaks. There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is required. To register visit thebrooksfund.org or contact The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee at 615 321-4939.
11/20: **National Transgender Day of Remembrance**
11/22-23: **Thanksgiving Holiday**: CARES Closed
11/26-12/1: **Int'l AIDS Film Festival** in honor of World AIDS Day Call CARES at 259-4866 x272 for more information, location and films.

December

12/1: **World AIDS Day**
12/18: **Nashville CARES Open House**. Join us from 2-7PM to celebrate the holidays
12/24-25: **Christmas Day: CARES Closed**

ifbp
International Federation of Black Prides

End of the Year
Black Pride Celebrations

Coming Soon: 2008 Dates
www.ifbprides.org

OCTOBER

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE
OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2007
CONTACT: Carlton Smith
Baltimore Black Gay Pride, Inc.
PO Box 23744, Baltimore, MD 21203
Phone: 410-685-7219
Email: bmoreblackpride@yahoo.com
www.bmoreblackpride.org

JACKSON, MS BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 18 - 21, 2007
CONTACT: Dr. Mark A. Colomb
Jackson Black Pride
PO Box 4682, Jackson MS 39296-4682
Phone: 601- 957-3625
Email: blackpride@mbk-inc.org
www.mbk-inc.org/blackpride.htm

SHREVEPORT, LA BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 25 - 27, 2007
CONTACT: Keith Boyd,
Phone: 817-401-7678
Email: events@7connection.com
www.shreveportpride.com

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 26 - 28, 2007
CONTACT: Dwayne Jenkins
Phone: 800-845-4266 x 269
Email: nashblackpride@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm
www.myspace.com/nashvilleblackpride

Haunting

Jeremy J. Joseph

I find that I am being haunted,
and that these battered knees are only good for a steady pace
that can in no way be construed as running,
and I suspect that had I Michael Johnson speed and strength,
a naught of difference such skills would make.

I find that you are there as I mix colors for a new canvas,
and, idly, I wonder of the art
such deftly energetic hands might create if you were to put them to painting.
You are there as I sweeten the sauce for the chicken in the oven,
you are there as Miss Corinne Bailey Rae rasps sweetly poignant lyrics,
you are there as I watch season one of Noah's Arc for the seventh time,
you are there as I reach for the towel after my shower,
and sometimes when I reach for the soap.
I share jokes with you that are never verbalized.
I come up with new recipes that feature your favorite vegetable,
the only one you eat, in fact, without reluctance,
that most peaceable of grains, the corn, preferably off the cob.
I delight in the way you stretch out hey when I pick up the phone and you say
Heey, Jeremy.
I've woken early on the weekend with your smile snuggling my pillow.

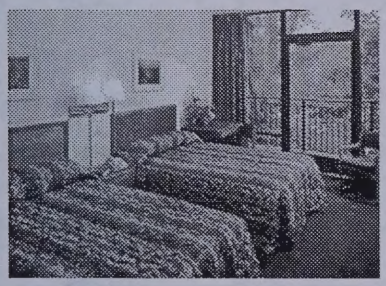
I find that your laugh and that little wheeze of breath after
is as nourishing to the me inside of me
as is the magical unction of a mother's touch for a bruised knee,
who would think laughter rippling through genial , mahogany eyes
could do me so much good?
Though I harangue and admonish,
though I lecture and caution
though I wrangle and fret,
I find that I am not listening and that
you have become important to me;
I find that you enrich my life.

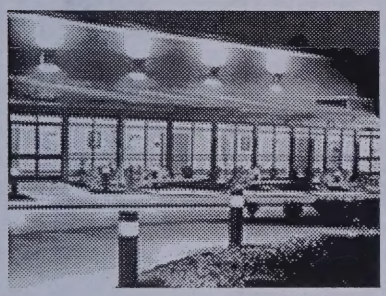
I find that the haunting continues...

BASU Winter Retreat # 11

Thursday, November - Sunday, December 2008

Montgomery Bell State Park Inn & Conference Center
1000 Hotel Avenue, Burns TN 37029



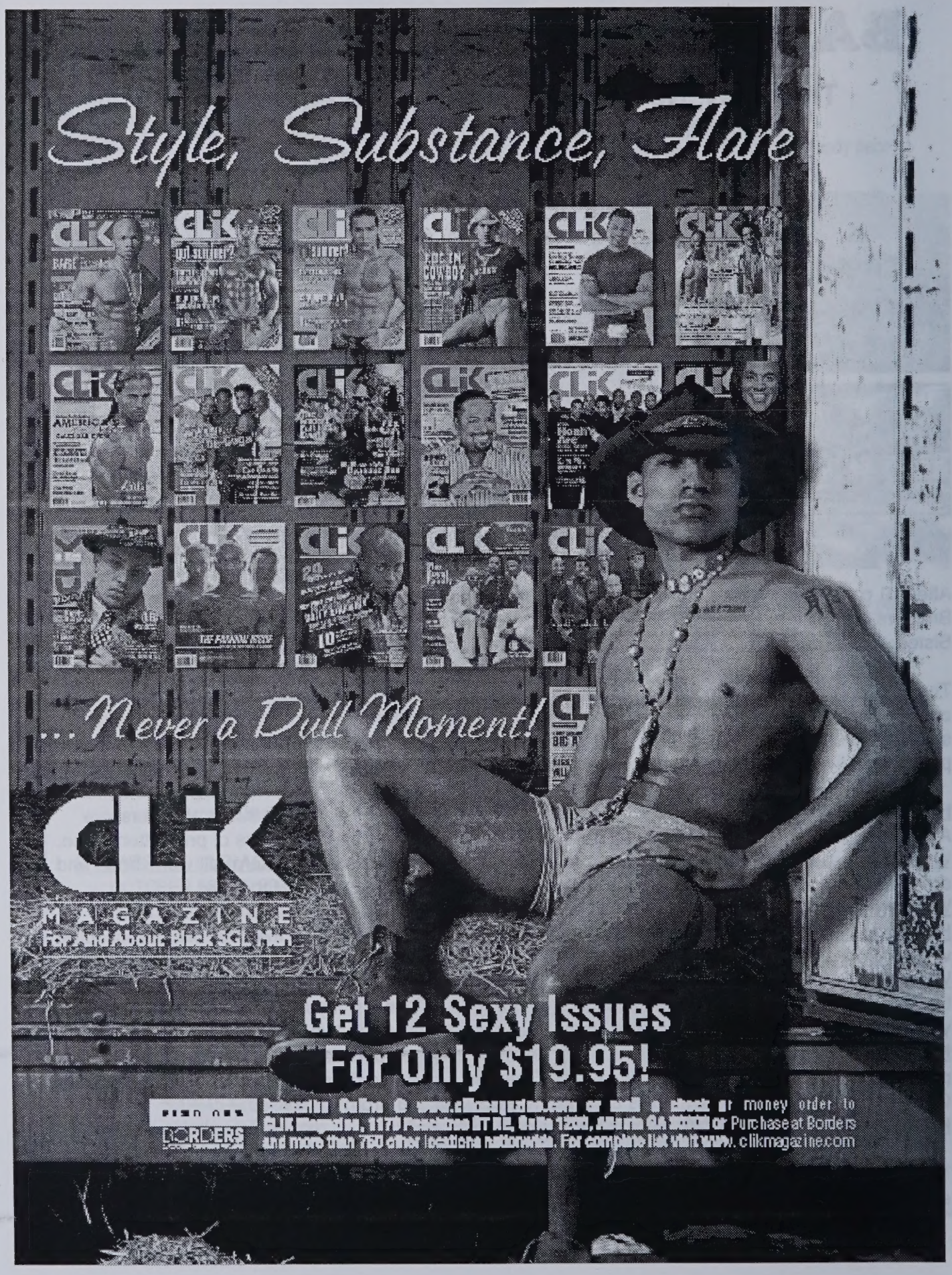


After 10 consecutive years of hosting our popular gatherings, and well deserved break in 2007, the Brothers and Sisters United (BASU) Winter Retreat will return in 2008! Since the development of our Sisters group, our event will remain co-ed to help build a cohesive and affirming family unit.

The atmosphere over the course of the weekend is very relaxed and gives participants a chance to explore issues of identity, spirituality, and sexuality. It is facilitated in non-threatening and culturally sensitive forum. At times it can be entertaining, provocative and emotional. Although the majority of participants live in the Tennessee, we welcome friends from out of state to join us.

How much does it cost? Early registration is $179 for returning guests and $199 for all others.
All payments received after September 1 increase to $225 per person regardless of prior attendance.
What is provided? (6) all you can eat buffet style meals, commemorative item, all workshops and activities, in-door pool, out-door hot tub & exercise facility. They are also pet friendly!
What are the accommodations: Hotel style double beds, TV, window and bathroom.
How do you pay? Credit card, money orders, or Internet payments through PAYPAL can be accepted via our bronetwktn@aol.com e-mail address. Installment payments are also available upon request!
What is your refund policy? To receive a full refund you must request it in writing before Sept. 30. After that your registration will be carried forward one year with no penalty. If you are unable to attend again your fee will not be returned. Registration fees are transferable up to two years.
How do you get to the site? Participants that drive will be given directions. Participants that fly will be provided with roundtrip airport shuttle service. The park is located 50 miles from Nashville, 161 from Chattanooga, 186 from the Memphis & West TN area, and 218 from Knoxville.
How many are you expecting? 50+ men & women.

To get an official brochure or register, call Dwayne at Nashville CARES at (800) 845-4266 x 269 or e-mail djenkins@nashvillecares.org or go to our website: www.brothersunited.com/retreat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